

2012 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

“You just never know what 10 meters is going to serve up!” — Jim, WX3B

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The 40th annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest was held December 8-9, 2012. After an amazing 2011 the faithful all over the world were awaiting a repeat. As late as December 1, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center flux forecasts were in the range of 130 for the contest period, which would lead to outstanding propagation. Right in line with 2011! The Sun had other plans, though, and conditions took a sudden, unexpected dive the week before the contest. In the days leading up to the contest, flux was in the high 90s and barely climbed above 100 over the contest weekend. Sadly, those hoping for a repeat were left wanting. In particular, inter-continental east-west propagation paths were severely depressed compared to 2011. Still, participation was high with 3,050 operators submitting logs. Those who did get on the air found plenty of folks to work, proving once again that the ARRL 10 Meter Contest is a great time!

Propagation

Part of the thrill of 10 meters is that low power and small antennas generate contacts far and wide. Whether operating for competition or recreation when 10 meters is open it is a great place to hang out. And, during 2012 10 meters was still a good place to make intra-continental contacts as well as look for DX on north-south paths.

Though the usual DX short paths were not cooperating, many lucky operators caught amazing long path openings. On both Saturday and Sunday morning long path openings erupted from the eastern US to Asia. As Ken, WM5R, related in his post contest soapbox comment:

“I experienced something that never fails to thrill me just a little. On both mornings, I managed to work other Amateur Radio stations in southeast Asia by pointing my antennas to my southeast. In our morning most of the planet between Texas and southeast Asia on

the short path is in darkness. The long path, on the other hand, was mostly in sunlight at that time and for a brief moment, conditions are just right. I made contact with other radio stations over a distance more than halfway around the planet. No wires, no networks — just two radios with some aluminum stuck high up in the sky, enjoying one of the fleeting wonders of nature.”

The People Behind the Numbers

Of course any event like the ARRL 10 Meter Contest is really the result of operators worldwide making the effort to turn on their station and get on the air. The people make the contest. The Sun and the ionosphere just provide a pathway for everyone's journey. In any contest there are full-bore operations meant to place first in their category, there are operations just about enjoyment, maybe along with some friends and family, and there are operators who go make extra special efforts just to get on the air.

One perennial story line is the battle for the top spot among DX Multioperator, High Power stations. In 2011 D4C managed to beat out 2008, 2009 and 2010 victor CW5W and set a new all-time record in the process. CW5W team leader Jorge, CX6VM, certainly noticed this and was committed to re-

gaining their top spot in 2012. As Jorge says their drive to be #1 *“...is a commitment that grows each year...”* CW5W was successful and reclaimed their crown atop the DX Multioperator, High Power category. That makes it four out of the last five for Jorge and his team — a dynasty in the making?

Similarly in the US, several traditional heavyweights battled for the top Multioperator, High Power spot, but it was the team led by Dave, K1WHS, an energetic newcomer to HF contesting, that pulled out the win. The K1WHS team was one of the ones to catch the long path openings to Asia on Sunday which resulted in some great multipliers. *“We had the rig on at 1200Z Sunday morning, and worked our first EU station then, fully an hour earlier than on Saturday. Then Dennis, W1UE, got the surprise of the weekend when JG1ILF called him on CW. He worked seven JAs, plus VR2CB, BD7LMD, XV1X, BU2AV, HS0ZIA and 9VIYC. Our last long path QSO was at 1541 with 9VIYC in Singapore.”*

Beyond competition, the 10 Meter Contest is always a good contest to share with family and friends give operators a chance to try contesting for the first time. Rich, N0HJZ, took an opportunity during the contest to introduce his 12-year-old nephew David to Amateur Radio and contesting. As Rich relates, *“He'd call and I'd log. He'd even push the buttons on the keyer. He loves radio contesting and all the countries he can talk to. He's got a license manual under the Christmas tree!”* What a great way to introduce someone to the hobby and then follow up on their interest.

Likewise the group at K4WP used the weekend to create a “hands-on” contest training session for members of their local radio club. Sponsored by Bill, K4WP, and Jere, KT4ZB, they exposed nine operators to the contesting experience. Their lesson plan included topics such as “Read the rules” and “Learn about the logging program,”



There are not many locations where you can operate adjacent to saltwater and be 500 miles from the ocean. Dave, WX7G, found one — the Great Salt Lake in Utah! [Dave Cuthbert, WX7G, photo]

which are probably good lessons for even the most experienced contesters. To top things off they even arranged for a VE session for one of the attendees resulting in Anne, KK4ICS, becoming KK4ICS/AE. Well done, Bill and Jere!

There are always a few operators who, without a permanent fixed station to use, have to make special effort just to get on the air. David, WX7G, operated in his car with a TS-480 into a Tarheel 40A screwdriver antenna. Being creative and wanting a low take-off angle he parked at the Great Salt Lake in Utah as you can see in the photo. The Great Salt Lake is also not the most comfortable place to be the first weekend in December. As they say: "The only thing between there and the North Pole is some barbed wire."

Activity

The 2012 contest still proved to be quite popular though not quite like last year when 5,361 logs were submitted. The 3,050 logs entered for the 2012 contest were good enough for third all-time, just behind the 3,119 submitted at the peak of the last cycle in 2002. For further comparison, the 2012 ARRL DX Phone contest set its all-time mark with 3,527 logs submitted. The average log contained 181 QSOs this year compared to 363 QSOs last year and 153 in 2010. The Single Operator, Low Power categories continue to be the most popular, making up just under half of all log submissions.

In 2011 the big category news was the creation of the Multioperator, Low Power (MOLP) category. Filling dual roles as both a true Multioperator category as well as a Single Operator Unlimited, Mixed category it continues to be quite popular with 287 logs submitted worldwide.

Looking around the world, logs were received from more than 221 different DXCC entities and W/VE/XE sections, only a slight reduction from the 230 in 2011. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest remains a truly a global event. More logs were received once again from those quintessential contesters in Japan, with 165, than any other location. They were closely followed by Brazil with 123 logs and European Russia with 95 logs. Total logs submitted from Europe fell 65% in 2012 from 2011. Maybe Europe did see the worst of the propagation. As Darrell, GØHVQ, said in his post contest write-up "*I wondered if I'd overslept by several years and woke up at solar minimum!*"

Looking for the most active W/VE/XE sections, honors go to Ohio with 67 logs received followed by Minnesota with 64. It is notable that Minnesota has less than half the ham population of Ohio so they were out in force. Continuing this perspective, the US states with the highest percentage of the licensed hams submitting a log were: New

Hampshire, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Delaware. In Canada, top honors go to Northwest Territories followed by Saskatchewan.

Activity in Asia held up fairly well. Overall logs submitted fell 42% from 550 in 2011 to 317 in 2012 which was just slightly less than the overall drop of 43%. After Japan the most active countries were Asiatic Russia with 68 logs submitted and China with 28. Though logs from China dropped, the number exceeds that from many stalwart European countries such as France, Sweden, England and Portugal.

Who were the most energetic and active contesters? Which operators sat down, kept their butts in the chair and made a large number of contacts? Looking at those entities with five or more logs submitted, 2012 honors go to Uruguay. The seven logs submitted from Uruguay averaged 1,160 QSOs each: A great effort from CV5K, CW5W, CX1DX, CX2BR, CX4SS, CX5BW and CX5TR! In second place were the 57 logs from Argentina, which averaged 511 QSOs followed by the 10 logs from the Canary Islands with averaged 457 QSOs each and the 21 logs from Chile that averaged 427 QSOs each.

Hard-Earned New Records

Coming off an amazing 2011 in which almost 1 in every 12 logs contained a record score and 1 in every 5 DXCC and W/VE/XE records were set, breaking a record was certainly tougher in 2012. The record opportunities created from the 32 new XE multipliers and new MOLP category have largely been taken advantage of. Yet, even with the overall poorer conditions than 2011, hard-working operators managed to set 88 new records in 2012. Fifty-one of these were DXCC entity and 37 were W/VE/XE records. Additionally, 21 first-time, and thus all-time, records were set by operators in the newly split Ontario sections in Canada (GTA, ONE, ONN and ONS). Thanks to the efforts of Ken, WM5R, a full set of all-time ARRL 10 Meter Contest records is available at www.arrl.org/contests.

Of these 88 records, there were 18 High Power records, 61 Low Power records (34 of these being in the still relatively new MOLP category) and 9 QRP records. In W/VE, 15 of the 18 records set in 2012 were in the MOLP category and the other 3 were QRP. No new Single Operator, Low Power or High Power section records were set in W/VE in 2012, other than the first-time records in the new Ontario sections. This also means no one successfully knocked off either of the two section records still existing from the 1970s, now the oldest ones on the books in W/VE/XE. Who will take the challenge next year and set new records for: Northern Territories, Single Op, High Power, Mixed set by VE8AW in 1978, and Idaho's Single Op, High Power,

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	9,125,998	84
Florida Contest Group	5,736,078	58
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,635,480	65
Minnesota Wireless Assn	4,247,762	56
Medium Category		
Northern California Contest Club	4,625,828	49
Southern California Contest Club	3,887,018	24
Society of Midwest Contesters	3,606,330	41
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	3,465,884	30
Frankford Radio Club	2,671,234	26
Western Washington DX Club	2,021,048	16
Contest Club Ontario	1,852,496	24
Carolina DX Association	1,736,694	18
Alabama Contest Group	1,608,428	19
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	1,454,322	10
Maritime Contest Club	1,453,882	11
Tennessee Contest Group	1,410,054	27
Georgia Contest Group	1,187,746	12
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	990,312	12
DFW Contest Group	971,434	15
ORCA DX And Contest Club	723,816	7
Mad River Radio Club	683,582	14
Willamette Valley DX Club	668,432	8
Northern Rockies DX Association	636,006	4
South East Contest Club	619,592	14
Louisiana Contest Club	591,708	7
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	568,648	7
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	499,384	11
Texas DX Society	485,534	4
North Texas Contest Club	478,896	4
CTRI Contest Group	475,486	7
Hampden County Radio Assn	466,188	11
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	395,630	3
North Coast Contesters	343,728	10
Western New York DX Assn	324,024	6
Saskatchewan Contest Club	311,132	4
Utah DX Assn	275,456	7
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	269,878	8
Contest Group Du Quebec	133,324	7
Radio Club of Redmond	117,518	4
Six Meter Club of Chicago	37,474	7
Local Category		
Iowa DX and Contest Club	1,094,660	4
Central Virginia Contest Club	896,864	6
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	798,808	8
Redwood Empire DX Assn	729,644	9
Lincoln ARC	395,278	3
Spokane DX Association	370,848	7
Bristol (TN) ARC	222,574	9
Midland ARC	214,976	4
Hilltop Transmitting Assn	176,352	4
Madison DX Club	154,908	3
599 DX Association	148,008	6
West Allis RAC	144,168	8
Low Country Contest Club	132,062	4
Granite State ARA	125,330	9
Delara Contest Team	121,728	6
Contoocook Valley Radio Club	115,292	3
Fort Wayne Radio Club	112,878	3
Bergen ARA	92,346	3
Badger Contesters	89,702	9
Hazel Park ARC	80,168	3
Kansas City Contest Club	77,668	4
Athens County ARA	71,934	3
West Park Radiops	43,510	3
QSY Society	37,602	5
Sterling Park ARC	35,466	3
Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club	18,236	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	14,212	4
Milford (OH) ARC	8,646	4
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club	7,450	5
Falmouth ARA	7,204	3

Mixed set by K7LR in 1979? 2013 and 2014 may be the last chance during this solar cycle.

Within W/VE/XE a total of 5 new division records were set in 2012, down from 50 in 2011. In the MOLP category, new records were set by K8WW in Great Lakes, W8KA in Southwestern, and N5DO in West Gulf. Additionally, XE2AU's Single Op, Low Power, Mixed and XE2B's Multiop, High Power operations set new all-time Mexican records.

Top Ten

US

Mixed Mode, QRP

K9OM	139,568
NA4CW	126,594
WA6FGV	101,340
N1CC	48,828
KC0MO	
(K0OU, op)	47,302
N6MA	44,756
KT8K	34,736
N2XP	34,720
WB2AMU	28,160
N9JR	26,962

Mixed Mode, Low Power

K6AM	502,016
KT0K	371,178
WD5K	362,202
K2PS	342,166
N7LOX	337,040
W9XT	328,098
K0TT	244,378
N6ZFO	230,454
AC0W	215,424
K7SS	187,916

Mixed Mode, High Power

N8OO	1,067,844
W6YX	
(N7MH, op)	948,192
N8II	917,670
K6LL	777,920
NQ4I	
(K4BAI, op)	777,096
K0EJ	737,104
WB9Z	621,300
WR9D	
(KB9UWU, op)	541,748
AA6PW	462,534
N2NC	461,472

Phone Only, QRP

KE2OI	49,528
W6QU	
(W8QZA, op)	28,900
N8MWK	16,836
KB5KYJ	9,450
WW0WB	8,184
N8XA	7,896
AA4JI	7,396
N9FRY	6,536
ND0C	6,474
KK0Q	4,200

Phone Only, Low Power

W3PAW	120,048
AC5O	99,138
N7XS	92,950
W4GKF	84,870
W2TF	54,612
N7CKJ	51,260
W1TJL	50,688
N6KP	48,112
K4DMR	44,352
WA8QYJ	38,700

Phone Only, High Power

K4XS	455,576
W5PR	342,240
NR5M	336,232
K5TR	
(WM5R, op)	277,992
K4NV	257,260
W3EP	202,160
WA5OYU	121,030
K1KNQ	115,830
N7UQ	113,848
K6HNZ	113,174

CW Only, QRP

K3RR	98,272
W6JTI	94,916
N0UR	93,984
N7OU	74,256
K0LUZ	50,952
K3TW	43,264
KS4YX	39,984
AA1CA	35,960
N4DSP	35,828
K4CIA	35,700

CW Only, Low Power

N4WW	
(N4KM, op)	322,400
K7QQ	276,696
N4TB	240,720
W3BGN	226,204
N4IJ	223,584
WB4TDDH	170,868
KU8E	169,376
WD4AHZ	161,920
K9QVB	156,240
W2EG	150,804

CW Only, High Power

W5KFT	
(K5PI, op)	597,640
KN5O	554,496
KD4D	548,640
K1TO	545,020
NY3A	446,656
K2SSS	439,456
N2MM	401,288
W6PH	312,480
K6NR	295,560
N9RV	289,428

Multioperator, High Power

K1WHS	1,312,722
NX5M	1,119,472
K1LZ	1,035,440
N6DZ	926,640
K9CT	890,358
AA1JD	860,274
W4UH	842,490
WX3B	798,720
K4FJ	788,322
AA2A	776,058

Multioperator, Low Power

KD2RD	496,164
W7TVC	457,588
N5D0	249,426
K4ZGB	208,610
K2DFC	205,936
N0HJZ	168,392
K7XC	168,036
W3ZGD	165,792
K8WW	141,456
WA1F	125,832

Canada

Mixed Mode, QRP

VA3KRM	1,408
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Mixed Mode, Low Power

VE6BMX	139,958
VE5ZX	121,152
VE5KS	77,700
VE3TW	57,038
VE3FH	32,262
VY2LI	31,248
VE2EBK	27,504
VA3AR	24,752
VE9ML	18,400
VE3VSM	10,360

Mixed Mode, High Power

VE3KZ	446,708
VY2TT	
(K6LA, op)	407,550
VE5UF	160,888
VE3CX	131,516
VE4VT	33,744
VE1JS	17,812
VA5LF	12,150
VE3JM	5,984
VE3AAQ	1,680

Phone Only, QRP

VE1ZA	13,072
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Phone Only, Low Power

VE8GER	46,864
VA3MTT	17,992
VA7IR	10,320
VE6EC	6,474
VE2HIT	6,336
VE7EMI	5,040
VE7VAW	5,040
VA7AM	4,048
VA3WU	2,684
VE6KAD	1,470

Phone Only, High Power

VA6UK	31,482
VA6NJK	31,440
VA3PC	8,600

CW Only, QRP

VY2OX	36,300
VE3MGY	1,548
VE3FAL	1,196
VE2KOT	24

CW Only, Low Power

VE1RGB	119,132
VE3FGU	61,248
VA2WA	
(VA2WDQ, op)	58,240
VE7CV	54,288
VE7JKZ	50,940
VE3OM	47,628
VE3IAE	34,600
VA7MM	29,376
VA3KAI	13,860
VA3EC	7,168

CW Only, High Power

VY2ZM	601,392
VE7JH	394,200
VE7XF	284,488
VE9AA	261,508
VE9HF	171,720
VO1TA	157,440
VA7ST	76,896
VE2Ezd	20,468
VE7WO	17,248
VE3EY	15,600

Multioperator, High Power

VE3MMQ	327,564
VE6WQ	217,728
VE1OP	216,300
VE3YAA	204,724
VE3EJ	201,488
VE3AD	138,840
VE6AO	129,420
VE7SQ	59,388
VE3XAT	48,640
VE7IO	41,412

Multioperator, Low Power

VA7BEC	245,436
VA7DZ	162,330
VE6AX	21,576
VA7XB	18,352
VE2AXO	14,168
VE3/KD2HE	1,672

Mexico

Mixed Mode, QRP

No entrant	
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Mixed Mode, Low Power

XE2AU	130,536
XE1FRF	64,780
XE2O	16,744
XE2ML	2,496

Mixed Mode, High Power

XE1GRR	63,190
XE1J	44,220
XE2CQ	37,320

Phone Only, QRP

No entrant	
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Phone Only, Low Power

XE2AA	36,816
XE1ZTW	7,980
XE2JA	7,252
XE1E	6,728
XE2JUM	3,240

Phone Only, High Power

XE1B	205,478
XE2HUQ	78,520
XE1EE	8,584

CW Only, QRP

No entrant	
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CW Only, Low Power

XE2HQI	88,200
4A7L	59,708
XE1CT	31,360
XE2YWH	6,076
XE3WMA	792

CW Only, High Power

XE1MM	181,116
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Multioperator, High Power

XE2B	472,926
XE1OGG	40,960
XE2X	33,696
XE2ST	1,932

Multioperator, Low Power

XE1HG	69,440
XE2FGC	20,868
XE1RCQ	11,088
XE1AJ	7,826
XE3N	2,736

DX

Mixed Mode, QRP

PY2NY	40,606
JR3RWB	26,700
EI4II	22,344
RT4W	10,880
JH7UJU	7,820
7K1CPT	7,592
JR1UJX	6,804
DL8LR	5,742
PY7AHA	4,522
JK1TCV	3,300

Mixed Mode, Low Power

LU8EOT	1,024,716
ZS6WN	472,940
PY9MM	436,272
HQ2N	
(JA6WFM, op)	254,320
LW3DG	154,880
JG1AVO	131,840
PY2MC	91,176
CX5TR	79,310
ZS2NF	77,812
NP3CW	59,064

Mixed Mode, High Power

HK1R	1,805,320
P40CX	1,381,632
XQ1KZ	693,056
EA7KW	626,232
ZS1EL	562,380
EF5Y	
(EA5GTQ, op)	462,726
OM2VL	173,862
RT4RO	159,790
DH8BQA	129,360
RX4W	102,700

Phone Only, QRP

TG9ANF	61,452
LU7VCH	14,592
VK4ATH	3,720
R7NA	2,856
PY2BI	1,462
PU5UAI	896
JA2MWW	672
PU2EBR	352
ON3TO	340
PY2BN	270

Phone Only, Low Power

PU5FJR	467,520
EA8AH	311,454
EA8MT	269,312
FY8DK	258,656
YY4DNN	224,976
LW7DUC	202,320
ZZ2T	
(PY2MNL, op)	181,608
PU2LEP	164,016
LR1F	
(LU5FD, op)	123,336
ZV2K	
(PY2SHF, op)	118,332

Phone Only, High Power

PP5JD	579,672
LP1H	552,000
CE3CT	393,262
YN5ZO	
(K7ZO, op)	326,976
LS6VI	198,440
PT9ZE	165,648
CR6K	
(CT1CJJ, op)	159,238
CE1TT	151,940
OA4SS	141,174
LU3DW	137,124

CW Only, QRP

LU7HZ	208,832
CX4SS	172,272
RV9DC	20,000
JA1YNE	
(JR1NKN, op)	19,840
VR2ZQZ	18,720
PP5BZ	11,616
US5VX	5,304
DJ2RG	5,152
JH6QIL	4,704
Z39A	3,956

CW Only, Low Power

PY3OZ	804,992
V51YJ	513,400
PY2WC	399,600
L33M	
(LU3MAM, op)	398,736
LW8DQ	301,416
NP3A	254,208
HS0ZIA	241,696
LW5HR	227,220
ZL3TE	211,344
5C5W	
(CN8KD, op)	206,928

CW Only, High Power

CE1/K7CA	786,420
EA6SX	324,104
KP3W	269,848
JA5FBZ	241,500
XR3A	
(CE3DNP, op)	236,684
IT9VDQ	202,860
JG1ILF	195,456
EA4ZK	160,160
JE1CKA	133,668
PV8ADI	130,220

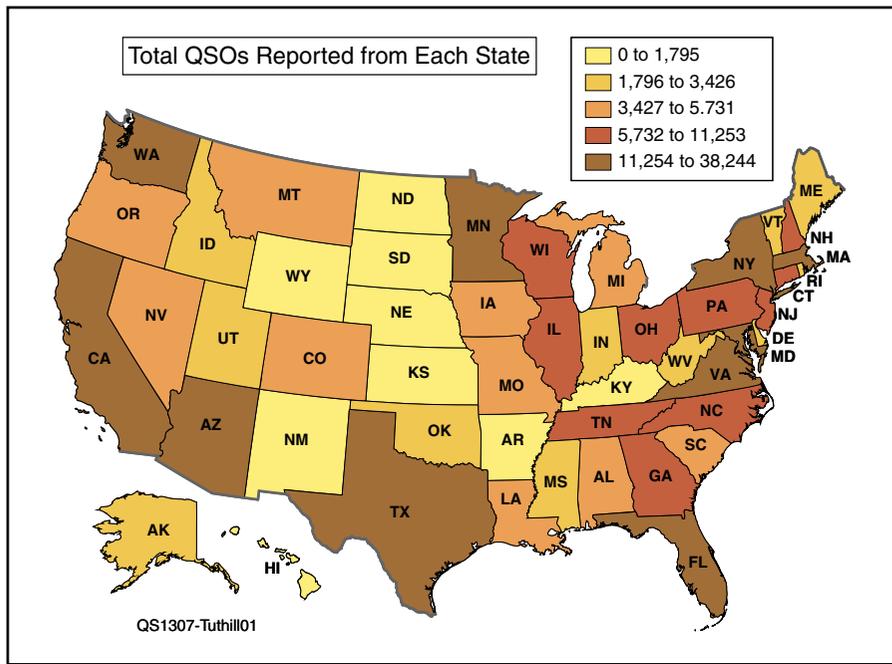
Multioperator, High Power

CW5W	3,535,974
D4C	3,118,892
LS1D	2,664,256
CX5BW	2,609,068
LU5FB	2,440,482
PY2NDX	2,178,474
PT5T	1,798,728
PJ2T	1,695,456
PS2T	1,271,806
PX2B	1,204,344

Multioperator, Low Power

PY1GQ	996,030
LU5DX	988,500
VK4WIL	593,206
LU3DAT	473,744
VP2VGG	293,454
LU1UM	247,040
HC2UA	244,494
PJ4NX	244,470
C6AKQ	232,064
LU2EE	201,984

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each state. Summarizing the story (see the online article for considerably more detailed analysis) is a map of total reported QSOs from each state. Some of the potential surprises here are: expect more QSOs than you think from Arizona, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Maryland. Also, work hard to make sure you get Kentucky, Arkansas, New Mexico, Nebraska and Kansas in your log.

Predictions for 2013

The 41st annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest will be held December 14 and 15. So, what might we expect this year? Cycle 24 has certainly not been up to the hopes and expectations of hams worldwide. However, Cycle 24 is not quite done yet, not by a long shot. The April 2013 forecast by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center for December 2013 flux levels are in the 130 to 148 range with a single predicted flux level of 139. Long-term forecasts have flux levels dropping about 16 points a year in 2014 and beyond, to around 126 in 2014, 108 in 2015, and 90 in 2016. Based on this, my advice is, if you enjoy 10 meters, plan a major effort for December 14 and 15 in 2013.

On the DX front, two new continental records were set, down from 15 in 2011. ZR6DX turned in the first ever MOLP entry from Africa and found themselves in the record book. VK4WIL ground it out and just managed to knock off V63QQ's existing Oceania MOLP record and will also find their call in the all-time record list.

Club Competition

The Affiliated Club Competition is like a wide-area Multioperator effort where you can operate from your home QTH but be part of a larger team competing with others. Seventy-one clubs submitted logs for the 2012 10 Meter Contest, slightly up from the 70 last year. Even with the overall drop off in contest participation from 2011, contest clubs provided the energy and motivation for operators to get on the air. These 71 clubs submitted a combined 899 entries meaning 52% of W/VE operators were also part of a club entry!

In some states, club participation was stunning. The 58 entries from the Florida Contest Group represented 67% of all the entries from Florida: And their club boundary can't even include the whole state! The 56 entries from the Minnesota Wireless Association represented 84% of the total entries from Minnesota. To top even that, 86% of the entrants from Connecticut indicated they were part of one of the four contest clubs active in that state. Way to go, club organizers!

In the Local category, the Iowa DX and Contest Club took top honors among the 30

clubs in this category. Their four members combined for more than 1 million points, the only Local Category club to do so.

In the popular Medium category, 37 clubs fought a hard pitched battle with the clear advantage in 2012 going to clubs on the West Coast. In the end the 49 members of the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) overpowered the 24 members from the Southern California Contest Club (SCCC) for a solid win. Even though the SCCC had a higher average score per member they could not overcome the NCCC's participation advantage.

In the "big boys" Unlimited category only four entries were received in 2012 down from six in 2011. Coming out on top again for the second year were the 84 members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) who bested second place Florida Contest Group by a wide margin. The PVRC not only repeated their 2011 formula for success by overwhelming their competition with sheer number of members, they also had higher average scores per member. Congratulations to all the clubs and their organizers.

Contest Planning

Questions that all contesters should ask are: "Where are all my QSOs going to come from?" and "What multipliers should I really be on the lookout for?" That way you can configure your station and plan your operating strategy accordingly. The obvious place to start is to look at a map of ham licenses in

Choose your category and figure out what sort of QSO and multiplier total it will take to reach your goal. Write these down in big bold letters on a piece of paper and post it in clear sight at your operating position. Then sit down, get on the air, and don't get up until you have exceeded your goals! Even if you are not so inclined, make sure to sit down and get on the air — the 2013 contest looks like it could be a memorable one.

10 Meters is Open Online

Look to the online extended version of this article (www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) for more commentary, more action photos, and the following features and analysis:

- Expanded tables of all Division, Regional and Continent winners.
- What did CW Skimmer spots tell us about propagation?
- Contest planning insights.
- Some predictions for the 2013 contest.
- Line scores and the all-time record tables.