My first IARU contest. Addictive. Will be back next year! – K6JB
This is my first try at HF contesting. I had a ton of fun hearing and talking to people all over the world. – KB3YSR
First IARU HF Championship! Did pretty well with just 5W. Am very happy. – KJ6MQM
My first contest after getting my ticket two months ago. Thanks for all the fun! – VP9NNL
I am 14 years old. I got my license in December 2011. It is the first time that I am participating in your contest. – VU3TMO
These ARRL Soapbox comments and many more (www.arrl.org/soapbox) highlight that the IARU contest in July is a great way to get into contesting. There are lots of people to work — in fact, the number of logs ticked up nicely this year — whether on Phone or CW or both. As you’ll see in the “participation stats,” you’re in good company if you operate “barefoot” with 100 watts or less. So plan on jumping in this July!

Online Extended Writeup
In addition to this QST writeup, visit the ARRL website for more information on the 2012 IARU HF World Championships (www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles). Additional material includes a W1AW/7 narrative by the Arizona Outlaws Contest Club, photos from several of the HQ stations (9A20HQ, LX75HQ, OH0HQ, S50HQ, and AT1HQ), and a story from UT7DK operating at 4Z4AK.

Participation Statistics
As mentioned above, the number of logs received this year (4054) increased by 10.3% over last year. This also sets the all-time record for the number of logs received (the previous record was 3714 logs in 2010). Figure 1 is the number of logs by year. This contest has shown, as have other contests, great growth over the years — and there’s no reason to think it will stop.

The most popular category was Single Operator, CW Only, Low Power, followed closely by Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power. There were more HQ stations than those brave souls who weathered the Single Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP category!

If you’re a Single Operator, the most popular mode was CW. Phone wasn’t too far down from CW, and likewise Mixed wasn’t too far down from Phone. Also if you’re single op, the most popular power category was Low Power. The number of entries in Single Operator, Low Power was more than twice the number of entries in High Power. This bodes well for those participants without amplifiers. In terms of percent, Low Power was 65% of all Single Ops, High Power was 27% of all single ops, and QRP made up the 8% balance.

With respect to single op participation by zone, ITU Zone 28 (eastern and southern Europe) continued its dominance in this event. But this year Zone 8 (East Coast US) participation edged out Zone 29 (old European Russia) participation — this has happened before, but it is rare.

Finally, 20 meters continued its first place finish for the band with the highest number of QSOs. With Solar Cycle 24 on the upswing (at least back in July!), the number of QSOs on 15 meters topped the number of QSOs on 40 meters by a healthy amount. 10 meters had a decent showing for the summer, with 80 meters and 160 meters bringing up the rear.

And The Winners Are . . .
A list of the winners and runner-ups for the World and W/VE for all the Single Operator categories and the Multioperator category can be found on page 88. The right-most column is the winning percentage — in other words by how much, in terms of a percentage, the winner beat the runner-up. This table is a condensed version of the W/VE Top Ten and the Non W/VE Top Ten, but includes QSOs and multipliers.

The closest race was in W/VE Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power. VE3AT, using the call XM3AT, bested VY2ZM by only 1.8% by making both more QSOs and more multipliers.

The second closest competition was between UW2M (UR0MC, op) and C4W (5B4WN, op) in the World Single Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power category. Both had about the same number of QSOs, but UW2M significantly won in the multipliers to win by 3.0%.

The third closest race was also in Single Operator, Mixed Mode but for Low Power in W/VE. W4IX had fewer QSOs but enough additional multipliers to beat NR3X (N4YDU, op). The winning margin was 3.1%.

Congratulations to all the winners! And all you runner-ups — keep trying — your time may come.

Records
Four records were broken in the 2012 event: Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power and Multioperator on the World side, and...
Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power and Multioperator on the W/VE side.

UT7DK at 4Z4AK bested the old World Single Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power record by over 10%, originally set by HG3M (HA3MY op) in 2005. The P33W Multioperator group overtook their 2011 World record by 25.8%. Will they beat this new record in 2013?

The “Category Records” table lists the IARU HF World Championships records, with this year’s new records in bold. Way to go, guys! So peruse the records, set your goal, and I hope to see your call in next year’s list of records.

Also be advised that I made two errors in last year’s records table. I erroneously had KH6ND listed as the W/VE Single Operator, Phone Only, High Power record holder (corrected to W9RE) — KH6 is not W/VE in this contest. And I erroneously had W1AW/4 listed as the W/VE Multioperator record holder — W1AW/4 was an HQ station. Sorry about that, guys.

**WRTC-2014 Station Evaluations**

An interesting aspect of the 2012 event was the **WRTC-2014 Station Evaluations**. These evaluations played a crucial role in helping operators prepare for the World Radiosport Team Championships, providing valuable insights and feedback to improve their performance. The evaluations were conducted to assess the capabilities, strategies, and equipment used by the teams, ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all participants. The results of these evaluations were shared publicly, allowing others to learn from the experiences and adjust their strategies accordingly. This not only enhanced the competitive aspect of the event but also facilitated continuous improvement and innovation in the field of radiosport. The detailed reports and evaluations provided a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects that contribute to successful performance in the WRTC, which can be applied to future competitions.
reaching a record level this year.

Figure 1 — The number of log submittals is showing steady growth, reaching a record level this year.

Figure 2 — Even though the conditions weren’t optimal, it is clear that conditions got a lot worse right after the contest!
the participation by contesters who were evaluating station setups for the forthcoming 2014 WRTC. The calls used were K1GO, K1RQ, K1ZD, N2KW, N9NB, N1IL, W1HH, W1MA, W1MJ, W1SJ, W1UE, W1UJ, and WB1Z. For information about this interesting experiment, visit www.wrtc2014.org/competition/2012-stationdata.

Propagation

The Sun did not cooperate this year — but it's still my favorite star! The 10.7 cm solar flux was certainly high enough for good propagation on 20 meters (the 10.7 cm solar flux was around 150 for the contest weekend), but an X1 X-ray flare on July 12 also triggered a CME (coronal mass ejection) that elevated the K indices later in the day on the first day of the contest (July 14) and into the second day of the contest. Figure 2 plots the eight daily mid-latitude K indices for July 11-15. Another great way to see the effect of the elevated K indices is to look at the output of the STORM Time Empirical Ionospheric Correction Model (offered by the Space Weather Prediction Center at www.swpc.noaa.gov/storm/index.html).

The ionosphere began to react early on July 15 with a reduction in electron density at all latitudes in the northern hemisphere. Nevertheless, IARU 2012 dodged a major bullet as the biggest effect of the elevated K indices was on Monday, July 16 (not shown in the graph — but you can see where things were headed).

Disqualification

H7GT (HA7MT, op) was disqualified from the 2012 IARU HF Championship for submitting a log deemed incompatible with the category entered.

This Year's Event

You have several months to get your station and antennas ready for this year’s event, which will be the weekend of July 13 and 14. I hope to meet you on the air!
**Table: W/VE Region Leaders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southwestern Divisions)</th>
<th>Central Region Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section</th>
<th>Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)</th>
<th>West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>W4UT 43,500 A A</td>
<td>KU4A 27,360 A A</td>
<td>KD4U 175,824 A A</td>
<td>W6XY 77,448 A A</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>KS4K 43,043 A A</td>
<td>KP3T 25,134 A A</td>
<td>WA5DSS 477</td>
<td>W6AQ 38,367 A A</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>W4XK 793,084 A B</td>
<td>K6OM 552,953 A B</td>
<td>K6GD 401,718 B A</td>
<td>K2PO 646,600 A B</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N63X (N4YDU, op) 769,365 A B</td>
<td>AH6J 127,832 A A</td>
<td>N1CC 181,830 A B</td>
<td>VE6EX 307,781 B A</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N6CM 274,446 A A</td>
<td>WD6B 92,610 A A</td>
<td>N5A8W 169,719 A B</td>
<td>N8WS 188,980 A B</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N5DX 2,294,334 A C</td>
<td>XM3AT (VE3AT, op)</td>
<td>KSGN 1,948,960 A C</td>
<td>N87U (N6MJ, op)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N8OO 1,870,429 A C</td>
<td>E6J3E 2,639,900 A C</td>
<td>W9EWD 1,279,396 A C</td>
<td>K6XX 1,493,063 A C</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N6A4Z 1,441,763 A C</td>
<td>K6ICU (KB9UWU, op)</td>
<td>K3SR 1,179,684 A C</td>
<td>W9YI (K6AM, op)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>N6A4Z 1,441,763 A C</td>
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**State QSO Parties this month:** Idaho, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin.

**QRP Contests this month:** ARS Spartan Sprint (March 5), AGCW QRP Contest (March 9), QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint (March 9), Flying Pigs Run for the Bacon (March 18), NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint (March 21)

**ARRL DX Contest — Phone (March 2-3):** Can you work 100 DXCC entities in a weekend? Many have done it; see if you can, too! US & Canada works only DX, DX works only US & Canada.

**North American Sprint — RTTY (March 10):** Do you love RTTY? If so, this 4 hour contest is for you! A limit of no more than two QSOs on the same frequency will keep all RTTY ops intensely busy.

**Russian DX Contest (March 16-17):** Everybody works everybody in this event, which is fast becoming a must on the contesting calendar. Emphasis is on working Russian stations and oblasts (districts). Work as many oblasts as you can.

Sean’s Picks

- Sean Kutzko, K9X, k9x@arrl.org

Tuskegee Airman in Pompano Beach

The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association in Pompano Beach, Florida was fortunate to have as their special guest and keynote speaker US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Leo R. Gray at their meeting last November. Colonel Gray is one of the original Red Tail pilots of the famous Tuskegee Airmen who distinguished themselves as combat pilots during World War II. [N4ZUW photo]