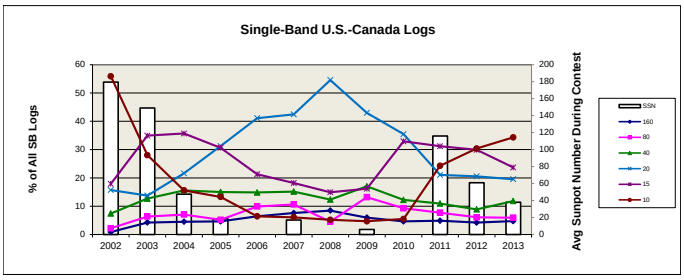
ARRL International DX Contest - Phone 2013 Results

By Ward Silver, NØAX

From iguanas in the shack to blown-up equipment and unexpected QRP contacts, the ARRL DX Phone contest provided a cornucopia of contesting.

After the relatively quiet conditions two weeks earlier for the ARRL DX CW contest, hopes were being stealthily raised that maybe – just maybe – we'd enjoy those coveted high-latitude openings on 15 and 10 meters. Once again, though, Old Sol decided to drive us all nuts by tossing a joker on the table. Solar indigestion resulting in a coronal mass ejection peaked the particle perceptors on Feb 25th and again on the 28th. On Friday, the planetary A index hit a nasty 27, boding poorly for propagation. While the A index innocently returned to a wide-eyed and modest 12 on Saturday, March 2nd and to an even more relaxed 7 on March 3rd, the damage had been done!

Paths from the U.S.A. and Canada over and through the northern auroral zone were ephemeral at best and non-existent at worst, especially for stations at northern latitudes. Single Op, High Power entrant AL9A summed up the Alaskan point of view from 60° North latitude pretty well: "*#@%&*!^ propagation! This one really stunk!"* On the other hand, stations in the low latitudes or across the geomagnetic equator from North America made far milder assessments. For example, VK4TS decided to participate as a 40 meter single-band entry: "*Nice 40M run into USA, 44 states in three and a half hours was fantastic*."



Single-band log totals from the U.S. and Canada versus the Average Sunspot Number during the contest.

As you can see from the chart, contesters were hoping for the better conditions on 10 meters – more 10 meter logs were submitted than last year, even more than 15 meters, which was arguably the better band throughout the weekend.

As a point of interest, during low sunspot years, 20 meters remains the Queen of the DX Bands, attracting large numbers of single-band logs. Year-in and year-out, if you want to work the DX, you need to be able to make contacts on 20 meters. At least one all-time DXCC list leader was known for having only a single beam antenna – a 20 meter monobander. You can see why!

Despite the strange conditions, we still had a lot of fun. It's hard to spend two days chasing and logging DX without getting a fair amount of enjoyment out of the experience. In fact, one-third of the W and VE soapbox comments included the word "Good" or "Great," about one-sixth mentioned "First," and one mentioned iguanas: *"Had a blast operating from a house on the beach, iguanas walking all over the place." - HC8/K7ST*. This never happens to me…

When the email robot finally closed its Inbox, it had ushered in a new participation record of 3545 logs - 18 more than last year! (1817 W/VE logs – a little less than 2012 – and 1733 DX logs – a little more this year) 875,714 QSOs were reported by DX stations. That's an average of 18,244 per hour – not a bad rate – and an increase of 60,000-and-change over 2012. W/VE logs contained 691,336 QSOs which is down by about one percent this year. There are a lot of W/VE stations who could be seeing their call sign in the results and aren't because they didn't send in a log! Nevertheless, Rose-Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW, has no doubt been sorting a lot of QSLs at the ARRL Incoming Bureau as a result of the ARRL DX contest activity this year!

Back to that Sun, though…as shown in the table of propagation index history these conditions were a bit worse than those in 2004 (both flux and the A index were a little higher) and last year (flux was lower but the A index was higher) but not dramatically. The comparisons show the value of large world-wide "propagation experiments" such as DX contests. With so many stations active and on a wide range of bands, the effects of solar and geomagnetic phenomena on propagation are much clearer than during day-to-day operation when activity is much sparser. This is a good reason to upload your contest log to Logbook of the World (**arrl.org/lotw**) and deepen our ham radio database of point-to-point communications on the ham bands!

	Solar Flux		*Planetary Ap*		*Estimated K*	
Year	*Sat*	*Sun*	*Sat*	*Sun*	*Sat*	*Sun*
2002	191	183	5	10	1.6	2.5
2003	138	147	14.5	11	2.8	2.6
2004	105	106	5	6	1.8	1.8
2005	81	84	10	36	2.5	4.3
2006	75	74	2	1	0.9	0.5
2007	73	73	2	3	0.5	0.8
2008	69	69	19	8	3.3	2.0
2009	69	69	1	8	0.3	2.6
2010	78	77	3	4	0.8	1.0
2011	135	143	5	5	1.1	1.2
2012	116	120	8	11	2.0	2.6
2013	111	112	12	7	2.5	2.0

Propagation indices for ARRL DX Phone for the past dozen contests. (Data from www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/indices)

It was definitely not all doom-and-gloom, even on Friday as the coronal particle stream collided with the magnetosphere. The first night of a geomagnetic storm period often exhibits improved propagation on the low bands – why, no one knows – before the general turbulence overhead shuts down DX paths. Many accounts of 160 meter operation note that the first night was definitely better with many CW signals on the band chasing the TX5K and XT2TT DXpeditions along with the SSB contesters.

But weren't things just awful on 10 meters? If so, that fact was well-disguised. The first five scores in the Top Ten for W/VE Single Op, Single Band on 10 meters would all have beaten last year's top score of 166k! But record territory? Not attainable this year as noted by none other than Martti, OH2BH, operating at CR1Z: "*As it was considered last year to break the 10M EU record we went with full force on it after great success on CW part. But it was not to be…we even tried a different cuisine of popular Sopas do Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit Soups), but it did not help*."

The winning 15 meter score of 527,904 was certainly competitive with 2012's 612k, as well. Definitely the bands were not open everywhere for everybody at the same time. Here are two typical comments:

KD4ACG (in West Central Florida) – "*I'd call it a successful weekend, even without an Asian, Pacific, or Oceania contact."*

K7ACZ (in Nevada) – "*Fair openings on 10 meters but nada to Europe."*

Yes, these stations were commenting on the same contest! Propagation was good enough for TO1A (French Guiana), FM5BH (Martinique), and 6V7S (Senegal) to place in the 10 meter Top Ten, which in lean years is quite difficult for stations north of the Equator.

Passing multipliers from band to band at a multi-op station also leads to occasional surprises. For example, the K9CT team (of which the author was a member) was called on 15 meters by a 7Q7 station on Sunday afternoon. (Call CQ, guys and gals!) After we both moved to a successful QSO on 20 meters, we then tried 10 meters even though the 7Q7 station observed incredulously, "It's midnight here!" It sure was but the contact was solid copy on a very quiet band! You have to wonder who else in southeast Africa might not have been able to sleep and was tuning 10 meters!

The moral of the story is that during a contest, there are opportunities that may not be otherwise available. As KD9MS observed, "*I've never heard bands so dead at 18:00Z on the day of a contest and then heard then JUMP like they did this weekend.*" Contests just seem to make their own propagation, don't they?

It makes you wonder about how often the bands are open but empty through the week. How many of us (and the author is also occasionally guilty of this) turn on the rig, spin through the band, don't hear it packed wall-to-wall, and turn it back off? We won't catch many fish without a line in the water – so call CQ! You never know… New tools like the Reverse Beacon Network (**reversebeacon.net**) and mature tools like the NCDXF beacon network (**ncdxf.org**) show where the DX may be.

If you really want to learn propagation on a band, the way to do it is to operate single-band for an entire DX contest. Whether from home or at a multi-op, you can be present as the band opens – often providing a short burst of grey line propagation or the like before settling down to the main direction of propagation. Then you can "follow the band" as the opening moves around – you don't have to move to the other bands – watching for long path or short over-the-pole openings for juicy mults you might miss while tuning another band. Later, as "your" band closes, perhaps skew path or another direction of grey line will come your way. This band know-how will serve you well as a single-operator in making those extra contacts and multipliers that move your score up in the final standings.

As we go through the rest of writeup, here are the abbreviations that refer to the different categories. Note that what used to be refered to "Assisted" is now the "Unlimited" category. You can find the rules that apply to all of the categories at **arrl.org/contests**.

SO, MO	Single Operator (SOAB – All Band, SOSB – Single Band, SOU - Unlimited), Multioperator
HP/LP/QRP	High Power, Low Power, QRP
MSH/L	Multi-operator, Single-Transmitter (HP/LP)
M2	Multi-operator, Two-Transmitter
MM	Multi-operator, Multiple Transmitters

Record-breaking Efforts

Whether you think the bands were hot or cold, there are a big bunch of new call signs in the record books. The tables below show all of the record-setters by category, district, and continent. **Bold** indicates a new all-time record for the category.

W-VE Records Set This Year

Category	*Dist*	*Call*	*New Record*	*Old Record*	*Held By*	*Year Set*
SOHP	2	W2RE	4,938,558	4,858,050	N2NT	2002
SOLP	1	N1UR	2,801,970	2,665,065	N1UR	2011
SOSB-20	4	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	801,288	447,552	N4PN	2010
SOSB-40	VE	VE3MIS (VE3VE, op)	74,292	62,622	VA6MA (VE6MAA, op @ VE6JY)	2002
SOSB-40	8	K3ZJ	94,464	82,476	KW8N	1994
SOULP	1	W1NT	1,228,857	1,009,785	KS1J	2011
SOULP	2	KA2D	935,022	763,962	KA2D	2011
SOULP	3	W3KB	1,219,392	748,584	W3KB	2012
SOULP	4	WB4OMM	1,119,492	1,009,014	KT4ZB	2011
SOULP	6	W7IV	639,144	525,930	WN6K	2012
SOULP	8	K8LY	524,700	394,212	W8KTQ	2012
SOULP	9	WE9R	1,064,496	609,150	WE9R	2012
M2	8	K8AZ	5,307,153	4,346,424	K8CC	1992
MSH	1	W2PV	7,510,293	6,780,420	K1LZ	2011
MSL	1	N1BA	1,633,464	320,016	AB1OD	2012
MSL	3	W3ZGD	612,978	612,472	W3GZD	2012
MSL	**4**	**NR4M**	**2,256,384**	**4,743**	**W4AAZ**	**2011**
MSL	5	N5DO	1,008,780	943,008	WØUO	2011
MSL	7	K2PO	833,490	none	none	n/a

A couple of old-timers from Cycle 22 were finally ushered into the archives this year as K3ZJ set the new standard on 40 meters from the 8th district. The old record by KW8N had been on the books since 1994. Elsewhere in W8-land, the crew at K8AZ was overturning an even older record in the M2 category that had been set by the K8CC team in 1992.

N1UR keeps the 1st district SOLP record moving ever-upward by ratcheting his 2011 record a few more clicks and edging ever-closer to the all-time records nearly shared by K4XS and VE3EJ. KA2D, W3KB, and WE9R are busily working their face of the seam in SOULP, advancing records they set previously again this year, as is W3ZGD in MSL.

DX Records Set This Year

Cat	*Cont*	*Call*	*New Record*	*Old Record*	*Held By*	*Year Set*
SOHP	EU	CR2X (ES2RR, op)	6,890,328	5,119,821	CR6K (CT1ILT, op)	2012
SOULP	EU	TM1E (F1JRD, op)	832,842	565,728	IB1B (IW1QN, op)	2012
SOULP	NA	KP2/KØBBC	1,524,507	987,840	HH2/PY1ZV	2011
SOULP	**SA**	**P4ØP (W5AJ, op)**	**4,630,209**	**2,090,772**	**PY1NX**	**2011**
M2	EU	TM6M	7,516,740	6,189,336	IR4T	2000
MM	**SA**	**HK1NA**	**15,278,994**	**8,113,770**	**PJ2T**	**2009**
MSL	AF	ZS6WN	173,628	none	none	n/a
MSL	EU	GT8IOM	323,439	270,546	S5ØXX	2011
MSL	OC	KH6RC	962,745	none	none	n/a

New All-Time Records

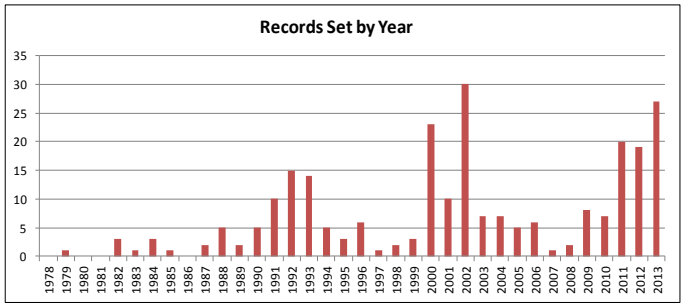
Particularly noteworthy are the three all-time records set this year:

- NR4M – W/VE MSL
- P4ØP (W5AJ, op) – DX SOULP
- HK1NA – DX MM

The HK1NA station and team led by Jorge, HK1R have been coming on strong, winning an extremely close race in the ARRL DX CW contest just two weeks prior and then running away with the category in the Phone weekend. They added a new 80 meter, 5-element vertical array this year to take the continental record from PJ2T (2009) and the old 1994 all-time record from 6D2X. *¡Bien hecho!* Hector noted, "*Great weekend with great friends! Murphy attempted to make his entrance several times but we close the door…thanks to all the team and thanks to all the folks who worked HK1NA."*

The W/VE Multi-single, Low Power record was beaten not just once but by *three* teams this year: NR4M with 2.2 Mpoints, N1BA at 1.63M, and N5DO at 1.0M. I sense this category record will not last long as the low power categories are attracting more interest with every contest as you can see in the Year Set column of the record tables.

Similar interest is beginning to be shown in the Single-op Unlimited, Low Power category outside W/VE as Robert W5AJ, operating as P4ØP, scored a whopping 4.63 Mpoints to more than double PY1NX's previous all-time record of 2.09 Mpoints. This is Robert's second category win in a row, having triumphed in SOLP as P4ØV in 2012. I asked him if he was in a groove or a rut and he replied, "*At 3 PM running ten meters at a zooming rate – one would say groove. At 3AM on 160M eating static - one would say rut and ponder insanity*."



The effects of the solar cycle and new categories are easy to discern in this chart that shows the year in which current records were set.

As the figure above shows, the flood of records is still flowing with 27 new records set in 2013, 18 of which were in either in SOULP or MSL. 12 were set in W/VE

and 6 by DX stations. The most common year in the record books remains 2002 (the mode) although probably for not much longer as two records from that year were taken this year. 2002 is also the median year for records with half of the records being set after 2002.

All of the ARRL contest records are available online at **arrl.org/contest-records**. More than 400,000 scores are included in the K5TR Contest database, too. (**kkn.net/~k5tr/scoredb**) Records are made to be broken and picking one – section, division, continental, or all-time – is a powerful motivator. Pick a target and fire away!

Are you looking for some low-hanging fruit to pick? You could just book a cruise down to Antarctica and arrange to operate Field Day-style for the weekend – only one record has ever been claimed from the coldest continent; SOSB-20 by R1ANC in 2009. There is but one lonely W/VE record remaining unclaimed for 2014 – the 9th district MSL category. Hint, hint! There is nothing to whet the competitive edge like an evening with the record book!

Close Calls

Category	*Dist / Cont*	*Call*	*Score*	*Existing Record*	*Set By*	*Year Set*
SOHP	VE	VY2ZM	5,640,480	5,647,008	VY2ZM	2004
SOLP	8	NA8V	1,328,250	1,375,998	N8II	1993
SOULP	1	K1BX	1,216,614	1,228,857	W1NT	2013
SOHP	NA	8P5A (W2SC, op)	9,277,644	9,722,772	8P5A (W2SC, op)	2012
SOULP	AS	8N1TW (JM1UWB, op)	88,164	91,884	HSØZJU	2012

Speaking of whetting an edge, some records got a mighty close shave this year as you can see above. Answering the question, "Who shaves the barber?" Jeff, VY2ZM lathered up his own Canadian SOHP record from 2004 but failed to nick it by a measly 0.1% - the closest of our close calls this year. Tom, W2SC, operating as 8P5A, was another self-shaver who put forth a valiant effort but left his razor unbloodied.

Keeping the String Alive

The active winning streaks of three or more consecutive wins of the same category are shown in the next tale. While several records are set every year, the intense competition around the world is making it harder and harder to remain "King of the Hill" for more than one year. On any given weekend, propagation and the excellent stations now in abundance around the world put the top spots up for grabs. How bad do you want that walnut in your shack?

Active Winning Streaks (3 or More Wins)

W-VE

Call	*Number*	*Category*
N1UR	5	SOAB-LP
K3LR	4	MM

DX

Call (@ QTH)	*Number*	*Category*
8P5A (W2SC, op)	4	SOAB-HP
KV4FZ	3	SOSB-160 (new)

The two W/VE stations that kept on keepin' on are N1UR with the longest winning streak of all – 5 #1 finishes in SOLP – and K3LR with a 4th top finish in MM over arch-rival W3LPL. Both of these top stations would have even longer streaks except for a single-year's interruption. (A compilation of Top Ten History over the past dozen contests is available on the ARRL Contest Branch website – **arrl.org/contests**.) On the DX side, W2SC may not have set a new record from 8P5A but Tom did push his SOHP win streak to 4 and we are especially pleased to welcome a new Top Band Top Gun in Herb, KV4FZ with a third straight win on our MF contest band.

Notable in terms of multiple wins are the two all-time records in MSH and MSL and a third continental record in SOSB-20 set from well-known P4ØV – the Aruba station of Carl, AI6V. Carl's station has three consecutive category world-high wins in the last three years; 2011 (MSL), 2012 (SOLP), and 2013 (SOULP). And that's just on phone. Aruba sits in the "sweet spot" for both ARRL DX and CQ WW contests, holding 5 of the 15 category all-time records in ARRL DX Phone. Only Hawaii has more category records, with all but one the Oceania continental record and no all-time records which would take a little more solar flux to challenge from the middle of the Pacific on an east-west path.

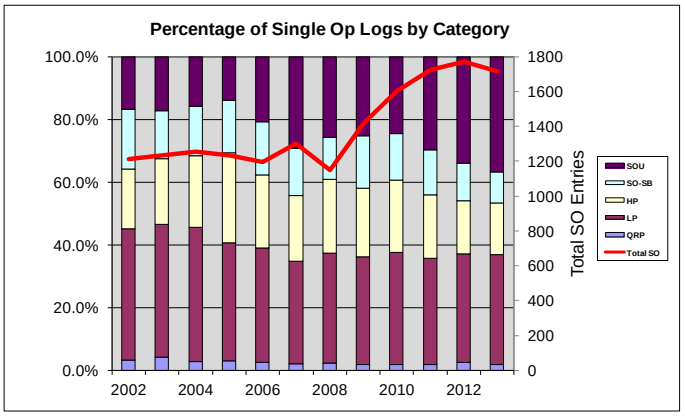
You may recall that last year we wondered if Joe, W6VNR would return to ZF2AH and get his sweep of the single-band categories on 15 meters? Pulling off that feat from the close-in Grand Caymans would require some excellent propagation. The challenge was just a little too great this year. Joe managed to come awfully close with 631,260 points but F1HAR piloted FY5KE to a narrow victory with a total score of 673,074. I figure that Joe has one or two years left in Solar Cycle 24 to grab that final brass ring for his collection.

Detecting radio-activity

Stations that have full-time efforts on a single band – the SOSB and MM or M2 entrants – make it a point to "pull a vacuum" and work everything that moves. With their big signals and consistent presence, their totals are a great way to assess activity levels.

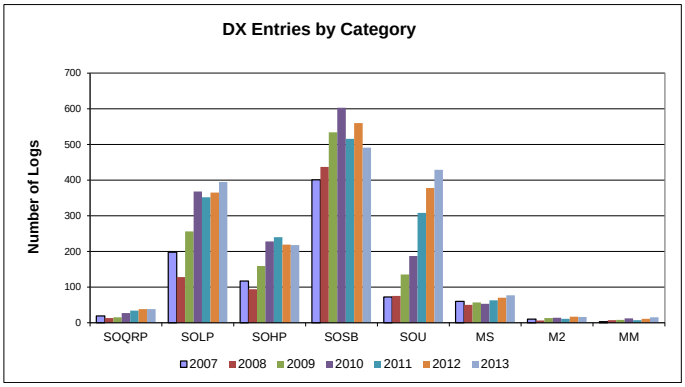
15 meters regained the "money band" moniker this year as FY5KE (F1HAR, op) piled up 3688 QSOs on his way to the SOSB-15 championship. On 20 meters from Colombia, the MM DX winning HK1NA team logged 3674 QSOs along with 3329 QSOs on 10 meters. It looks like the north coast of South America was very, very good to the high-band operators this year.

Here in the U.S. and Canada, the W3LPL MM crew pulled in 2434 contacts on 15 meters and 1197 on 10 while 'LPL's competition at K3LR rang the 20 meter bell with 2261 QSOs. Several DX stations were able to log 62 states or provinces, the maximum achieved this year, and the K3LR ops on 20 and 15 meters worked 149 and 143 DXCC entities during their shifts, respectively.



Relative levels of activity between the various W-VE single-op categories.

This is the first year ever that Single Operator Unlimited logs outnumbered Single Operator, Low Power and SOU is now the most popular category. If current trends continue, the same will be true for DX logs, as well, with 429 SOU logs to SOSB's 491 this year. DX SOLP logs also saw healthy growth this year as you can see in the following chart.



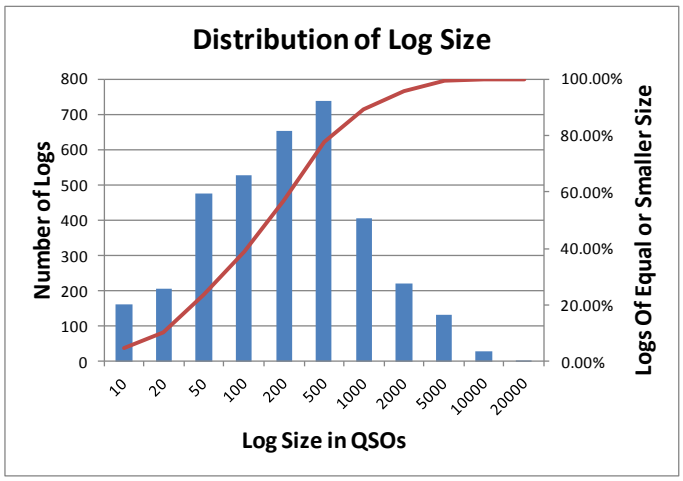
Relative levels of activity in the various DX categories.

Why the shift to SOU? Probably because having a continuous stream of spots to choose from is so much fun! Station automation has progressed to the point at which just clicking on a spot tunes the radio, switches any filters and antennas, aims the rotator, and away you go to a log full of exotic calls, hard to work states and provinces – the hours fly by! While the traditional, find-it-yourself style of operating will be with us forever, clearly the use of spotting information from the Internet is the way of the future.

However, this leads to "issues." Can we talk? First, you do still have to copy the information of the station you're calling – such as the call sign! A significant percentage of call signs that get spotted are BØGUS. Think before you call or log…it's really easy to copy and spot a letter (or two) wrong so don't trust that spotted call unless you don't mind the QSO point penalties that come with claiming invalid contacts.

Listen, listen, listen…here's how it worked for Ben, N3UM: "*It was fun working ZD7VC St. Helena on 10 m: I heard a bunch of spread-out stations sending calls, then ZD7VC "listening down 5 to 10". I waited out a "QRX for a drink of water" pause and got him on one call when he came back.*" That magic is something you'll never get from a spot!

Another issue is that stations on the DX side need to give their call signs frequently enough that callers don't have to guess at it. Yes, not ID-ing makes your rate higher but at the expense of everybody else's error rate and wasted time. That's just poor sportsmanship! Some of the top stations ID with every QSO so there is no excuse – none – for not giving a call sign at least every few QSOs.



A frequency distribution (histogram) showing how many logs of a certain size range were submitted along with the total number of logs in or below a certain size range.

The lifeblood of a contest may look like the Big Guns in these write-ups, but the truth is that a successful contest depends on the participation of many casual operators who do their best with modest stations or get on "just for a while." Mark, AA2MA exemplified this approach by deciding to have some fun behind the wheel, reporting that he "Operated (the) contest while mobile on a solo trip from Madison, AL to Waco, TX. "*Recorded QSOs in MS, AR, and TX…Had a ball on my 1st SSB contest and it kept me awake on a 12 hour drive. Many thanks to my ham friends around the world!*" The preceding chart shows how many submitted logs were big and how many were little. Nearly 60% of all logs contained 200 or fewer QSOs. These operators are truly "the life of the party" and I hope they keep coming back, year after year – thanks!

ARRL Affiliated Club Competition

Little Pistols and the casual operators can also have a delightful and mutually beneficial relationship with their clubs. At all levels, from the mass mayhem of the annual YCCC vs PVRC vs FRC Unlimited Club slugfest to a bragging rights challenge between Local Clubs, making a group effort is fun and motivating. In the Pacific Northwest one year, we had a low-power 20 meter single-band challenge during a low sunspot year (which could be very common if predictions for future cycles come true) and there we all were late into the evening: A fleet of little wireless fishing boats, strung out along the band, our call signs bobbing and blinking in the darkness like lanterns as we tuned up and down between bouts of CQing. One could almost smell the coffee in the mug and see the other operator's hand on the tuning knob, poised to pounce on another DX call.

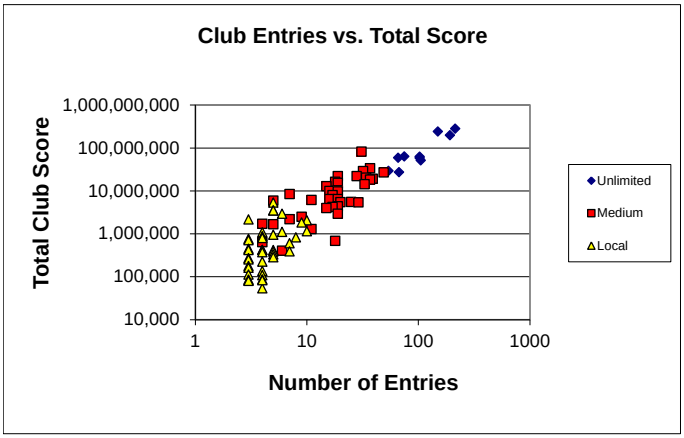
Do you have a local contest club? If not – start one! If you do – join one! I can't think of a better suggestion for someone just getting started in contesting.

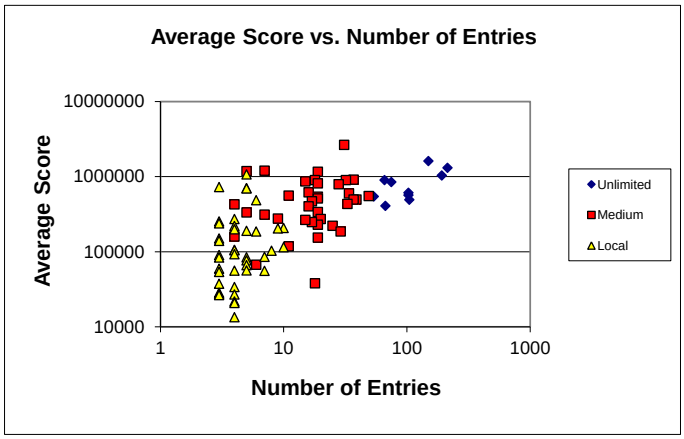
Overall, the club scene seems pretty healthy, don't you think? There were 41 more logs submitted for club totals than last year (2051). Four more clubs joined the fun bringing the total number to 89 – can 100 contest clubs be far behind? It only takes a few logs to make up a Local Club entry!

Well, let's just start with the Local Club category, then, shall we? Here we can see the direct results of putting in a little extra effort on the air as the Southwest Ohio DX Association jumped ahead of last year's 1-2-3 clubs to take the gavel. The average number of logs submitted by the 42 Local Clubs was just a bit greater than 4 and there were 194 total logs submitted in support of the entries.

Next up the scale are the Medium Clubs where the North Coast Contesters duked it out with the Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers to a 1-2 finish. Charging up the list, though, was the Mad River Contest Club that added 1/3rd more logs (32 this year versus 24 last year) and made a big jump to third place. Watch out next year!

And the main event, ladies and gennulmin…from the northeast corner of the country and weighing in at 214 logs, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. And from along the mid-Atlantic seaboard, the challenger, at 150 logs, is the Frankford Radio Club. Well, when the dust had finally settled in the Contest Branch, YCCC had once again vanquished all comers with a bazillion points from 13 lucky logs more than last year. Notable is the stealthy advance in the standings of the Northern California Contest Club, Society of Midwest Contesters, and Contest Club Ontario!





How did your club "do" in the competition? The top chart shows how all the clubs compared in terms of their total score and the bottom chart does the same in terms of a club's average log score. The goal – move your club's data point up and to the right – that's where "better"is!

Here's a tip for all clubs, not just the contest variety. Offering to help other club members send in a log is a good way to help a potential contester become more active, whether they are new to HF or just haven't done it before. Once they've done so – and found out how easy it is – they'll be contributing to the club totals on their own every time!

Accuracy

Why is it that we have radio contests, anyway? Certainly, they are fun, but I don't see anything in FCC §97.1 Basis and Purpose about having fun on the radio. I see a couple of points about advancing communications technique and training operators, though. That's why contests are so valuable to us – we improve our stations, technique, and general radio know-how – all while having a pretty good time.

A crucial part of contesting and training is accuracy when communicating, so that you are ready to get the job done when it counts. One comment I hear regularly is, "So what if I miscopy a call or exchange? Just delete the contact – I don't need to get a penalty, too!" Well, would it be okay if when passing emergency traffic to misspell a name or get an address wrong? Probably not, so we all need to make the extra effort to get it right. Just like in football or basketball, an infraction is not an accusation of cheating, but penalties are assessed to encourage proper play. Thus, in radiosport, it is just as important to note and reward high accuracy as it is a high score.

Error Rate and Accuracy Index

Lets start with error rate which equals the ratio of "bad" QSOs to "good" QSOs. Bad contacts are listed in your Log Checking Report; those with a "busted" call (B) or exchange (X) or that are "Not In Log" (N). Note that contacts with Unique (U) call signs – those with which yours is the only contact reported in the entire contest – are not counted as bad. Error rate ranges from 0.0 (no errors – a golden log) to 1.0 (every contact was bad). Improving your own accuracy index from year to year is an excellent goal.

Uniques are not removed from a log because they could not be shown to be an bad QSO with some other station that did submit a log. Some Unique contacts are no doubt good – a station not in the contest that happened to tune by and make a QSO – but follow-up studies of logs by the ARRL and other contest sponsors show that most Unique contacts are really bad contacts. Nevertheless, without definitive proof that the contact was really bad, it stays in the log. As more logs are submitted electronically, the number of Uniques that make it through the log-checking process is steadily being reduced, making the results more accurate for everyone.

The accuracy index rewards lower error rates for large logs. For two logs with equal error rates, the log with more verified contacts has a higher index.

$$Accuracy\ Index = \log_{10}(Good\ QSOs) + 10 \times (1 - Error\ Rate)$$

The following tables list the top five Accuracy Indexes achieved by SOHP/LP, SOU-HP/LP and Multiop (MO) stations this year and then the all-time records are given.

Accuracy Leaders

(Bold indicates a new record)

W-VE

Single-Op

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
VE3EJ	SOHP	3799	0.4	13.540
VB3E (VE3AT, op)	SOHP	3687	0.4	13.527
W2RE	SOHP	3711	0.6	13.509
VY2ZM	SOHP	3949	1	13.496
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	SOHP	3505	0.8	13.465

Single-Op Unlimited

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
N3RS	SOUHP	2537	0.8	13.324
K3WW	SOUHP	3193	1.8	13.324
AA3B	SOUHP	2554	1.1	13.297
W1GD	SOUHP	2163	0.6	13.275
N2MM	SOUHP	2400	1.3	13.250

Multi-Op

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
K3LR	MM	7801	0.7	13.822
W3LPL	MM	7347	0.9	13.776
WK1Q	MM	5146	0.9	13.621
W2PV	MSH	4543	0.9	13.567
N2NT	M2	4554	1.4	13.518

DX

Single-Op

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
8P5A (W2SC, op)	**SOHP**	**8958**	**0.3**	**13.922**
P49Y	SOHP	7673	0.5	13.835
CR2X (ES2RR, op)	SOHP	6930	0.2	13.821
V26M (N3AD, op)	SOHP	6929	0.5	13.791
KP2M (N2TK, op)	SOHP	6601	0.3	13.790

Single-Op Unlimited

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
P4ØP (W5AJ, op)	SOULP	4951	0.4	13.655
CE3CT	SOUHP	4833	0.6	13.624
ZZ2T (PY2MNL, op)	SOUHP	3856	0.5	13.536
EB3CW	SOUHP	3359	0.7	13.456
IR2C (IW2HAJ, op)	SOUHP	3172	0.9	13.411

Multi-Op

Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*
HK1NA	**MM**	**14472**	**0.7**	**14.091**
PJ4G	M2	12140	0.4	14.044
TM6M	M2	8157	0.3	13.882
VP5H	MSH	7646	0.7	13.813
LP1H	MM	7213	0.5	13.808

Accuracy Index Records (All-Time)

Bold indicates the record was set this year

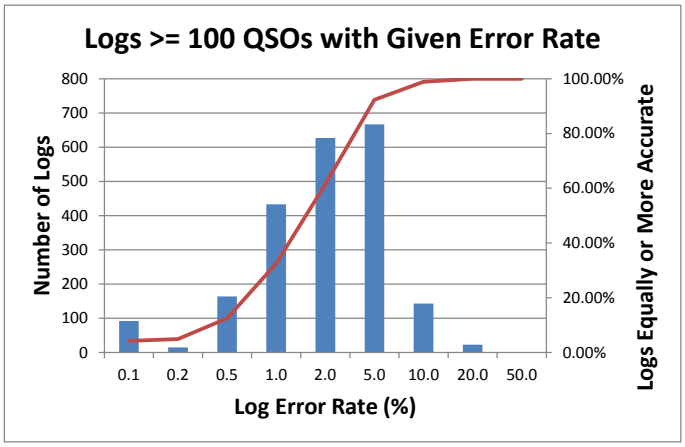
	Call	*Category*	*QSOs*	*Error %*	*Index*	*Year*
W/VE						
SO	VY2ZM	SOHP	4084	0.5	13.561	2010
SOU	W2RE	SOUHP	3541	0.7	13.479	2011
MO	K3LR	MM	7894	0.6	13.837	2011
DX						
SO	**8P5A (W2SC, op)**	**SOHP**	**8958**	**0.3**	**13.922**	**2013**
SOU	PJ4G (K2NG, op)	SOUHP	6706	1.1	13.716	2012
MO	**HK1NA**	**MM**	**14472**	**0.7**	**14.091**	**2013**

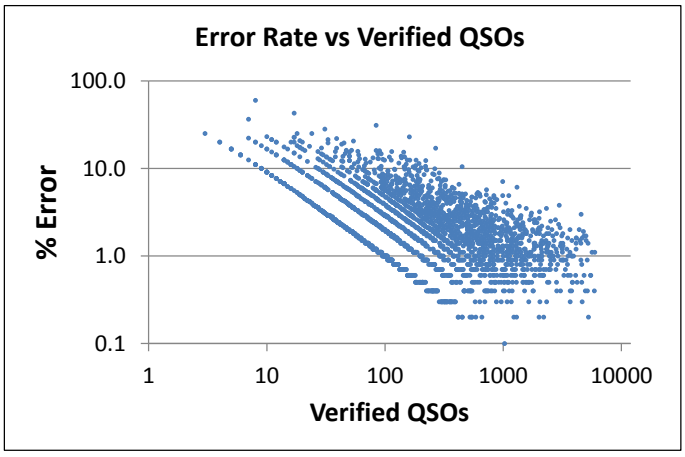
Here are the Top Ten Golden Logs, as well – the largest logs that incurred no log-checking penalties. This year's Goldfinger Award goes to OG6N who turned in the largest Golden Log for ARRL DX Phone since your author has been tracking accuracy rates!

Top Ten Golden Logs

Call	*QSOs*
OG6N	986
EA1CBX	513
OM3GI	430
F5LIW	403
HB9AUS	401
K1HT	401
OK6Y (OK2PTZ, op)	363
WA6FGV	362
KBØEO	345
OH2XX	333

And how did you fare against the Four Horsemen of Inaccuracy – QRM, QRN, Fatigue, and Wishful Thinking? As shown in the top chart, most logs are pretty good, with more than half of the logs accomplishing an error rate of 2% or better, and more than 80% of logs have an error rate at least as good as 5%. Not bad, but as the strong correlation between these Accuracy tables and the upcoming Top Ten tables shows, there is always room for improvement.





The second chart plots W-VE and DX station error rate versus the size of their log. (Golden Logs are omitted) Notice how the distribution narrows and lowers as log size increases – that's where the Good Arrow of Accuracy points. Your goal is to move your data point down and to the right.

Between the Ears

We'll conclude this section on accurate operating by observing that the least expensive station accessory to improve is the one between your headphones. Upgrading it is simply a matter of effort – and costs nothing. If you want "free points", just push your error rate down.

Here's what to work on to move your score ever-higher in the standings without a single purchase:

• Accuracy – no guessing, get it right or don't log it

• Efficiency – no extra words or comments

• Consistency – develop a rhythm and stick with it

• Full calls – use them on transmit and pull them out when called

• High-quality audio – put your watts where they count

• Identification – don't waste the time of others, give your call and be sure they log yours correctly, too!

Dave, KM3T was one of the team of W2PV operators that took top honors in MSH from WW1WW's station, setting a new 1st district record in the process. (Photo by K1DG)

DXing

Before reviewing our category winners, here are a few more top achievements to applaud. While 5-Band DXCC in a weekend continues to elude the competitors – no station achieved DXCC on 80 meters – the top multiplier totals continue to stay high with lots of activity from around the world putting even semi-rare DXCC entities on the air.I'm sure the 10 meter operators are not complaining, though, with a second straight year of high multiplier totals.

The best DXCC entity totals acquired by a Multi-Op and Single-Op entry are listed below

160: K3LR – 57 (MM), VY2ZM – 49 (SOHP)

80: K3LR – 90 (MM), W1XX – 70 (SOSB-80)

40: K3LR – 120 (MM), W7WA – 94 (SOSB-40)

20: K3LR – 129 (MM), W4AAA (KK9A, op) – 124 (SOSB-20)

15: K3LR – 143 (MM), N4PN – 117 (SOSB-15)

10: W3LPL – 113 (MM), N3RS & W3BGN – 93 (SOUHP & SOSB-10)

The top DX multiplier totals were mostly from Caribbean stations but the team effort by XE7S team was noteworthy: HK1NA (354), PJ2T (346), PJ4G (341), VP5H (338), XE7S (320). Just out of the top five were TI8M and CS2C so the wealth is definitely being shared!

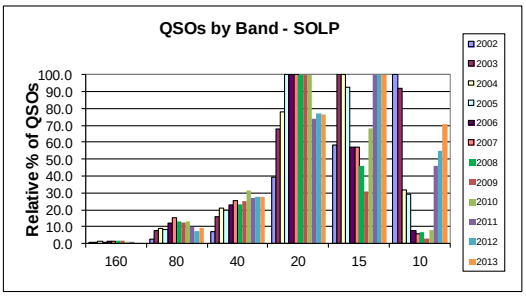
Comparison to 2002

The year 2002 is considered by many to have been the very best year for overall conditions during the previous sunspot cycle, Cycle 23. As such, I've found it interesting to keep track of how the each contest compared to 2002. To create the following charts, I calculated the total number of QSOs and Multipliers accumulated by all W-VE station.

The first set of four charts on the following page show which band had the most QSOs or Multipliers and all the rest as a percentage of that. For example, if 20 meters had the most QSOs, 20's bar is set to 100% and all the other bands are some fraction of that.

The second set of four charts shows how much the absolute number of QSOs and multipliers have varied from 2002 in percent.

The third set of four charts shows the relative change of QSOs and multipliers from 2002. Positive values mean more QSOs or Mults (better) and negative means fewer (worse).


QSOs by Band - SOLP
Relative % of QSOs
100.0
90.0
80.0
70.0
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
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40
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15
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2004
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2006
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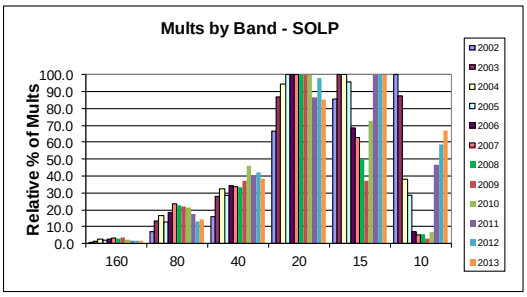
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013


Mults by Band - SOLP
Relative % of Mults
100.0
90.0
80.0
70.0
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
160
80
40
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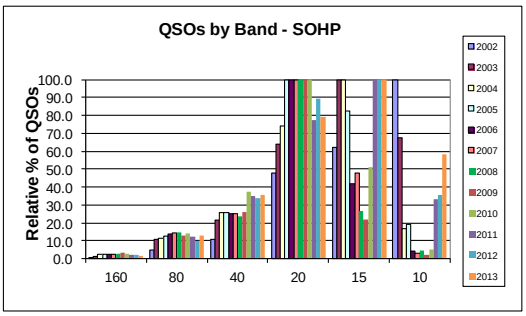
2011
2012
2013


QSOs by Band - SOHP
Relative % of QSOs
100.0
90.0
80.0
70.0
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
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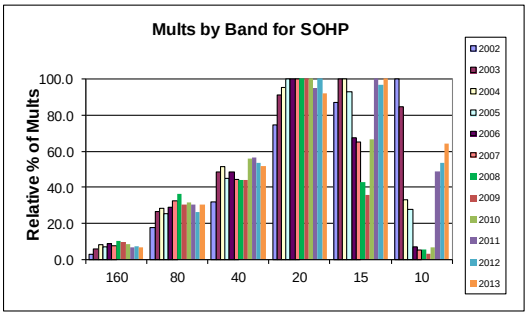
Mults by Band for SOHP
Relative % of Mults
100.0
80.0
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
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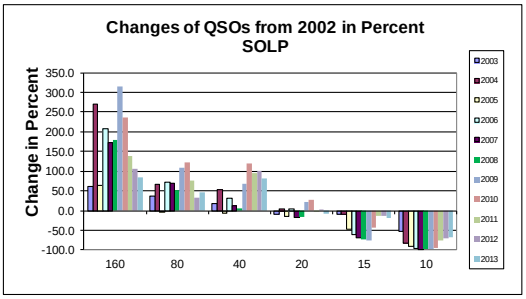
2012
2013


Changes of QSOs from 2002 in Percent
SOLP
Change in Percent
350.0
300.0
250.0
200.0
150.0
100.0
50.0
0.0
-50.0
-100.0
160
80
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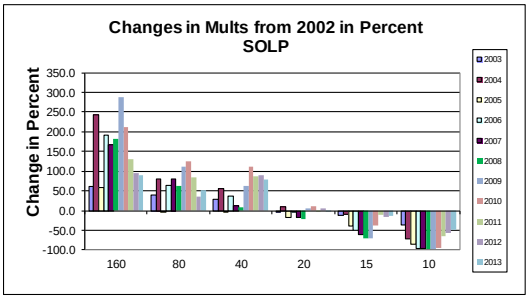
2013


Changes in Mults from 2002 in Percent
SOLP
Change in Percent
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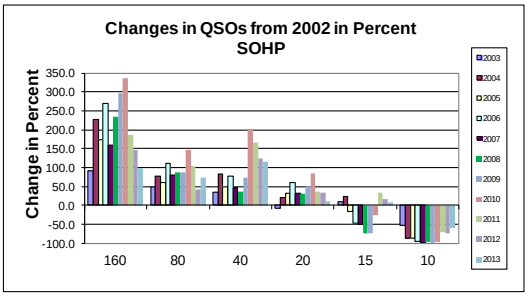
Changes in QSOs from 2002 in Percent
SOHP
Change in Percent
350.0
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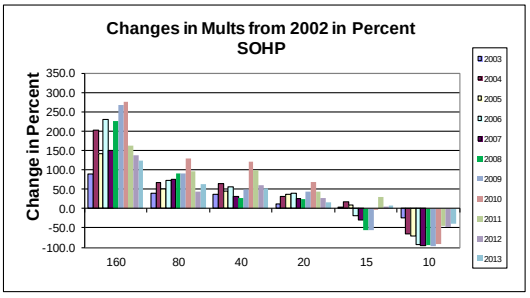
Changes in Mults from 2002 in Percent
SOHP
Change in Percent
350.0
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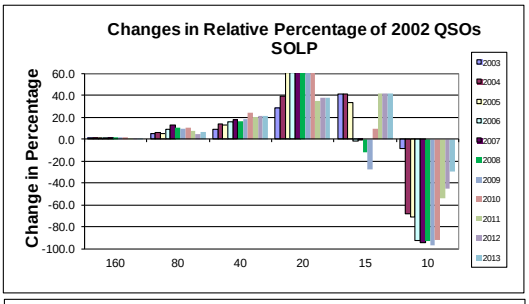
Changes in Relative Percentage of 2002 QSOs
SOLP
Change in Percentage
60.0
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20.0
0.0
-20.0
-40.0
-60.0
-80.0
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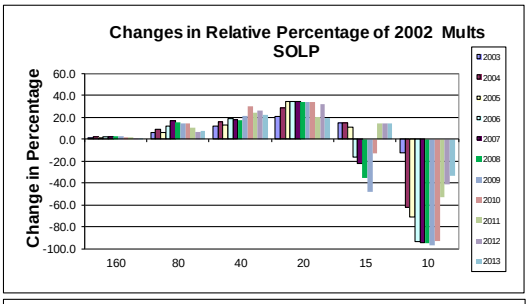
Changes in Relative Percentage of 2002 Mults
SOLP
Change in Percentage
60.0
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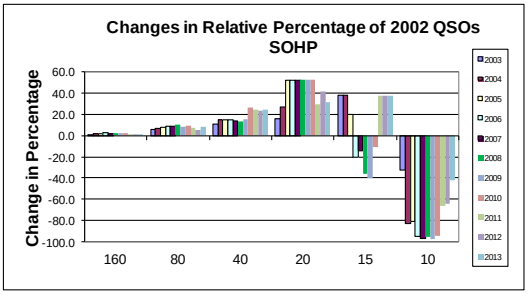
Changes in Relative Percentage of 2002 QSOs
SOHP
Change in Percentage
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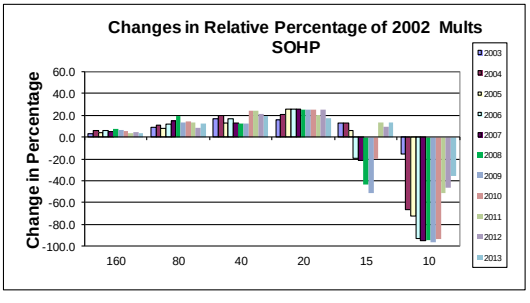
Changes in Relative Percentage of 2002 Mults
SOHP
Change in Percentage
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The Top Ten

A drumroll, trumpet flourish, and a rimshot, maestro! It is time to present our Top Ten all categories this year. While due to the Internet's broadcasting of reported scores, we might have a reasonably good idea of "who's who" in the various categories, there were a number of tight races that turned on the results of the log checking process. Similarly, a few dark horses didn't post a reported score and show up in the Top Ten unannounced. So there remains a fair amount of suspense to be resolved as we go through each and every category.

While the Top Ten tables are often populated by geographically favored stations, there is plenty of hot action from everywhere in the world. The Regional Leaders tables attempt to recognize competitors who are every bit as tenacious as those not as propagationally-challenged. Volunteer authors have created another excellent set of division, regional, and continental write-ups to take a close look at the competition in your area, including the Carribbean's annual conflagration of contesting. We also have an extended European writeup from OH2BH this year that covers both the Phone and CW weekends of the ARRL DX Contest. These sections are where the extraordinary efforts from around the world get noticed.

There is a historical chart of Top Ten winners by category in PDF on the website along with this writeup. It covers from 2002 through 2013 and it's quite interesting to watch winning streaks come and go as well as where the favorable propagation must be on the different bands!

W-VE Winners

Single Operator, High Power

SOHP fosters the most intense Top Ten competition. Big stations and top operators from all across the continent vie for recognition, turning in huge scores.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
VY2ZM	5,640,480	3949	480	1	MAR
VE3EJ	5,314,140	3799	468	0.4	ONS
VB3E (VE3AT, op)	5,105,964	3687	463	0.4	GTA
W2RE	4,938,558	3711	446	0.6	NNY
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	4,374,360	3505	419	0.8	MAR
N5DX	4,201,245	3168	445	1.1	AR
W9RE	3,733,776	2892	432	0.8	IN
NC1I (K9PW, op)	3,695,913	3078	403	0.9	WMA
K1ZR	3,542,121	2915	407	1	NH
K3ZO	3,147,660	2624	402	1.7	MDC

Noted previously, VY2ZM came within a whisker of setting another all-time Canadian record and took the category for the 10th year out of the past 11th. He narrowly edged last year's winner, VE3EJ, who slid by countryman VE3AT using the special call VB3E and W2RE. The Ontario-New York region may be a little farther from Europe than VY2 but remains well within range of a win during any year.

Call - QSOs	***SEC***	***160 Q***	***80 Q***	***40 Q***	***20 Q***	***15 Q***	***10 Q***
VY2ZM	MAR	**118**	**246**	426	**1228**	1303	**628**
VE3EJ	ONS	40	128	503	1115	**1457**	556
VB3E (VE3AT, op)	GTA	29	215	458	1123	**1439**	423
W2RE	NNY	44	**300**	**608**	1126	1147	486
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	MAR	41	143	353	**1278**	1244	446
N5DX	AR	21	161	**595**	543	1326	522
W9RE	IN	28	141	507	741	806	**669**
NC1I (K9PW, op)	WMA	41	**231**	343	1021	1067	375
K1ZR	NH	19	184	363	1062	1009	278
K3ZO	MDC	25	155	509	690	757	488
Call - Mults	***SEC***	***160 M***	***80 M***	***40 M***	***20 M***	***15 M***	***10 M***
VY2ZM	MAR	**49**	**66**	78	**101**	**105**	**81**
VE3EJ	ONS	33	60	**86**	**105**	**102**	**82**
VB3E (VE3AT, op)	GTA	24	62	**85**	**108**	**107**	77
W2RE	NNY	32	**66**	**83**	97	99	69
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	MAR	31	53	73	96	87	79
N5DX	AR	19	**65**	**86**	95	**106**	74
W9RE	IN	24	59	80	98	95	76
NC1I (K9PW, op)	WMA	31	59	70	97	85	61
K1ZR	NH	17	**67**	71	97	90	65
K3ZO	MDC	22	58	78	87	90	67

It's nice to see N5DX in the mix at sixth place, giving K6LA at VY2TT and good challenge from the farthest southwest Top Ten location this year, Arkansas. The Indiana Powerhouse of W9RE was right in the thick of things, too, at number seven.

Just how do these competitors stack up against each other, making use of their unique locations and stations? In the table of score breakdowns above, red text shows which station turned in the top QSO or Mult total and bold shows the strongest competitors. As you can see, the winning band totals were well-distributed.

VY2ZM has 160 meters pretty well locked down but look at W2RE on 80 and 40 meters! VB3E (VE3AT, op) was the top DXer on 20 and 15 meters. W9RE was able to run on 10 meters, as well. Notable are the top 40 meter totals from N5DX using a big mountaintop 40 meter Yagi and K1ZR's multiplier total on 80 meters.

Single Operator, Low Power

Next up are the SOLP competitors who turned out to be spread all across the eastern half of the continent. While Canadian stations dominated the top half of the SOHP Top Ten, here they are conspicuously absent.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
N1UR	2,801,970	2454	382	0.7	VT
N1PGA	1,634,256	1564	351	1.1	WMA
NA8V	1,328,250	1270	350	0.7	MI
N4TZ	1,297,125	1158	375	0.9	IN
N5AW	1,147,032	1082	358	1.6	STX
KE3X	706,680	796	302	3	MDC
WA2JQK	650,025	700	321	4.2	ENY
KD9MS	632,388	705	302	1	IL
WD5K	621,621	763	273	0.8	NTX
WA1S	599,238	730	274	0.4	GA

As we saw in the record listings, N1UR (VT) continues to hold the fort in SOLP with a fifth straight win – the longest in the contest at the moment. His score is just a whisker from placing in the SOHP Top Ten – that would indeed be a rare achievement. The next four spots came feature tightly-packed stations from New England (N1PGA), the Midwest (NA8V and N4TZ), all the way down to the West Gulf Division's STX (N5AW).

Sixth through tenth place were pretty competitive, as well, with KE3X and WA2JQK from the Atlantic seaboard overcoming strong efforts by KD9MS (IL), WD5K (NTX), and WA1S (GA).

Single Operator, QRP

Braving the QRM and can't-get-a-call-in-edgewise conditions are the SOQRP stations. Having competed as a QRP station myself, I have to tip my cap to the sheer chutzpah of tossing a five-watt signal into the middle of Kilowatt Alley and coming away with a QSO.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, QRP

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
N1TM	402,555	581	235	2.4	CT
NØKE	239,220	455	180	2.8	CO
NDØC	225,345	416	181	0.2	MN
KS4X	188,877	378	167	0.5	TN
NT4TS	179,550	352	175	2.8	SFL
KT8K	164,268	327	169	1.5	MI
W2ID	130,824	277	158	0.4	NNJ
W2WGK	101,088	234	144	n/a	NLI
W6QU (W8QZA, op)	92,916	269	116	1.1	SDG
KØOU	52,200	176	100	1.1	MO

You might think that success with QRP requires a lobster-filled saltwater QTH somewhere northeast of the Big Apple, but not so! True, CT's N1TM is on top of the leaderboard with a very nice score not far off the SOLP pace. Second place, though, makes a cross-continental hop – two, in fact – landing at the CO QTH of NØKE. The tenth district was well-represented in the QRP totals as NDØC was in third, making a good run at second, and KØOU (MO) closed out the list. The fourth district also did well as KS4X (TN) and NT4TS (SFL) placed fourth and fifth.

The competition then turned back to the northeast in the guise of KT8K (MI), W2ID (NNJ), and W2WGK (NLI) before the sixth's districts one-and-only appearance in any of the SO category Top Ten. W6QU (W8QZA, op) has placed as high as second in SOQRP (2008) but is persistent in his West Coast efforts, year-in and year-out.

Single Operator, Single Band

As you saw in the chart on the first page of this writeup, single-band operation ebbs and flows with the solar cycle, particularly on 20, 15, and 10 meters. Here at what purports to be the peak of Cycle 24, with sunspot numbers (38) less than half than in 2002 (179), there has been a bit more ebb than flow. 10 meters had the largest representation this year, followed by 15 and 20 meters. Even so, the 10 meter log total (58) was a bit less than ½ of 2002's total (128). Futhermore, SOSB entrants are turning more and more to SOU categories, especially with the new Low Power sub-categories being attractive to smaller stations. Nevertheless, if you really want to learn a band, doing a single-band effort is a great way to enjoy the contest – and you usually get a little sleep, too!

In the following tables, you'll note that error rate is not calculated for the single-band entries. This is not an aspersion cast on the single-banders or an unavailability of data. Your author was initially interested primarily in analyzing the error rates of stations using and not using spotting assistance. In order to compare apples and apples, more or less, only the all-band entries were included in the data set – SOHP/LP/QRP, SOUHP/LP, and MS/M2/MM. Eventually, I would like to see error rate published for all of the Top Ten stations.

On to the bands! While 10 meters wasn't exactly gangbusters, it wasn't a dead duck, either. As I observed when discussing propagation, the first five scores in the next table would have won the category in 2012! So we have a combination of propagation beyond the straight north-south paths and a lot of participation. These are good things and combined to make operating on 10 meters a lot more fun than the solar numbers alone might indicate. The moral – once again – is to get on and call CQ. Don't wait for the spotting networks to show activity – *BE* the activity!

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, 10 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
W3BGN	247,194	888	93	EPA
N8II	204,363	784	87	WV
K9BGL	187,824	733	86	IL
K2SSS	186,576	682	92	WNY
W5PR	172,536	640	91	STX
W3EP	148,653	601	83	CT
K4WI	108,570	470	77	AL
N2PP	105,066	450	78	WNY
K1VSJ	91,350	408	75	RI
NC2V	64,824	296	74	SFL

W5PR (STX) has had a virtual headlock on SOSB-10 for several years but despite besting last year's winning score, still found himself on the wrong side of several stronger scores from more northern stations. W3BGN (EPA) jumped ship from the the previous three year's SOHP category and topped both the QSOs and Mults columns to come out on top. N8II (WV) followed in second while K9BGL (IL) and K2SSS (WNY) had a real photo finish for 3rd and 4th, respectively. You still had to beat the east to make the Top Ten as all remaining stations were on the Atlantic side of the Mississippi.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, 15 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
N4PN	527,904	1508	117	GA
N7DD	456,780	1341	115	AZ
VE3KZ	322,500	1087	100	GTA
NU6S	182,016	634	96	SCV
WD5R	175,152	673	89	AR
NY7N	169,200	602	94	AZ
N9TGR	162,960	563	97	IL
W6AFA	145,530	546	90	LAX
AK5DX	140,868	564	86	NTX
WA8RCN	137,547	542	87	OH

This was clearly a case of being in the right location as N7DD (AZ) was a little too far west and VE3KZ (GTA) was a little too far north, but N4PN found GA to be just right! The winning totals were on par with the top M2 and MSH QSO and Mult counts, including a very nice 117 DXCC entities.

The pair of AZ entries here by N7DD and NY7N (6th place) were some of the very few seventh district Top Tenners. AR made another appearance as WD5R helped keep this often under-represented state in play. Two other West Coast stations also "made the box" – NU6S with a nice 4th-place showing from SCV in Northern California and W6AFA from LAX down south.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, 20 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
W4AAA (KK9A, op)	801,288	2165	124	NC
W4SVO	398,196	1240	108	SFL
WR2G	143,112	543	89	NNJ
K6HNZ	120,486	472	86	SCV
K7MH	110,424	433	86	WWA
W1AVK	83,106	356	81	CT
VA7ST	72,150	328	74	BC
VE1SQ	55,593	265	71	MAR
W4RRE	49,665	224	77	TN
K4TRH	48,840	220	74	TN

Twenty meters seems to have a propagation "sweet spot" that runs in an arc along the Atlantic seaboard to VE3. The arc is centered, as you may have guessed, somewhere in central Europe! This year, W4AAA (operated by KK9A) took full advantage of being in the right spot at the right time to take the category and set a new 4th district record in the process, running away with the competition by a 2:1 margin. Southern and northern neighbors W4SVO (SFL) and WR2G (NNJ) were a bit outgunned this year, although WR2G moved up a couple of notch in the standings.

The West Coast was well-represented as K6HNZ (SCV) entered SOSB-20 again this year, followed up the coast a ways by K7MH (WWA) and VA7ST (BC). Two nor'easters, W1AVK (CT) and VE1SQ (MAR) mixed it up with the boys from the west and a pair of Tennessee stations closed out the list. What's missing on 20? The middle of the continent – very interesting!

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, 40 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
W7WA	242,520	862	94	WWA
K3ZJ	94,464	388	82	WV
VE3MIS (VE3VE, op)	74,292	305	82	GTA
W1FQ	38,916	190	69	EMA
K8DJC	32,256	171	64	OH
N3LL	30,132	165	62	WCF
VE3DZ	30,030	156	65	ONS
VA3XH	22,059	131	57	ONS
VE9AA	21,672	173	43	MAR
W4JKC	18,954	119	54	SC

Utilizing a great location, the right antennas, and a long familiarity with Japanese contesters, W7WA simply overpowered the rest of the SOSB-40 competition from WWA – nice job! In second place, K3ZJ set a new record for the 8th district from WV as did the 3rd place finisher VE3MIS with VE3VE at the mike for Canada – both nice jobs!

Forty meters was hot – more and more stations are figuring out how to make good use of the 7100-7200 kHz segment made available to amateurs on a world-wide basis.

Watch those VFO frequencies, folks – there is no shortage of U.S. stations calling stations below 7127.5 kHz. Yes, the U.S. allocation's bottom edge is 7125 kHz but you have to keep your sidebands *above* that frequency! Similarly, it's pretty easy to get tired and click on a 40 meter spot, call the station, and only then realize you just called on their transmit frequency, well below 7100 kHz. Oopsie. If you can configure your logging software or rig to not allow transmissions out of band on voice, please do so.

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator, 80 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
W1XX	71,610	343	70	RI
WX4G	44,622	223	67	NC
K1KNQ	25,926	151	58	NFL
K4KZZ	23,973	135	61	NC
W4QNW	19,992	119	56	SC
WA4TII	19,665	118	57	GA
W4DD	16,218	105	53	GA
KT8D	10,434	74	47	OH
N4DTF	5,100	51	34	TN
K4EDI	1,800	30	20	TN

Rhode Island turned out to be the place for an 80 meter victory as W1XX dominated the category with QSO and Mult totals that would have been competitive in M2. Winning this category depends on being able to hear 100-watt European stations, explaining why the leaders are all crowding the Atlantic Ocean! It will be a couple of years (or more) before the band is really open enough to allow another layer of interior stations to be competitive. (All ten stations that entered SOSB-80 are listed here.)

W-VE Top Single Operator, 160 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Section*
W2MF	11,952	83	48	SNJ
KM1R	2,418	34	26	CT
AG4W	1,872	27	24	AL
K1HAP	1,863	27	23	NH
VE3EDY	1,260	22	20	ONS
WD5COV	867	17	17	NM
K4EJQ	630	17	15	TN
W3GH	585	15	13	WPA

Regaining top dog status this year is W2MF who has placed first or second on 160 for the past six years. 'MF's QSO and Mult totals are up there with VY2ZM, K3LR, and W3LPL so he knows the band and can obviously hear well, too. Top Band Phone is a "tough room," as the comics say, so digging out even a handful of QSOs is admirable. Here's to better days on our only MF contest band! (All eight stations that entered SOSB-160 are listed here.)

Single-Op Unlimited

As the popularity of SOU grows, so do the number of records set and the size of those records. What used to be an exercise in listening to the local spotting repeater is now largely automated with TELNET feeds streaming ten or more spots *per second* into the logging software's insatiable maw. "Single-op Distracted"? Perhaps, but you have to admit that it's definitely the hottest game in town!

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
K3WW	4,513,374	3193	477	1.8	EPA
N3RS	3,519,585	2537	465	0.8	EPA
AA3B	3,511,437	2554	461	1.1	EPA
N2MM	3,220,140	2400	451	1.3	SNJ
W1GD	2,863,995	2163	443	0.6	NNJ
N3RR	2,702,898	2077	438	1.3	MDC
W3FV	2,698,404	2075	436	0.8	EPA
KN2M	2,399,460	1985	406	0.9	WNY
N4ZC	2,396,163	1790	451	1.9	NC
N2WKS	2,389,527	1893	423	0.7	NNJ

It used to be that the contest club with the biggest network of linked repeaters took home the gavel – and even with the wealth now shared all around the world, old reasoning dies hard. Take a look at the Section list in the table – a circle centered somewhere in northeast Virginia would not have to be very big to contain the entire SOUHP Top Ten!

There are a couple of "Mr. Reliables" in this category. The winner, K3WW (EPA) has been 1st or 2nd seven times out of the past 12 and in the Top Ten for the category 11 out of the past 12 years. In 3rd place this year, is AA3B (EPA) who is another Top Ten station for 11 out of the past 12 years. Both stations are on the air in many, many contests and deserve a tip of the cap for consistency and dedication.

In fact, there are many familiar calls in this table – N3RS (EPA), N2MM (SNJ), W1GD (NNJ), N3RR (MDC), and N4ZC (NC) all placed in the Top Ten last year and you'll find them frequently in the Top Ten History available on the ARRL Contest website (**arrl.org/contests**).

With so many top competitors, the category is extremely competitive – second in that sense only to SOHP. Look at the slim margin between N3RS and AA3B, N3RR and W3FV, and KN2M and N4ZC. There is not much time to lose in working stations spotted on the network – as DX stations know well. When you get spotted, look out!

W-VE Top Ten Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
W1NT	1,228,857	1160	359	1.8	WMA
W3KB	1,219,392	1180	348	1.3	EPA
K1BX	1,216,614	1168	349	0.8	NH
WB4OMM	1,119,492	1032	363	0.6	NFL
WE9R	1,064,496	1086	331	1.5	WI
KA2KON	981,681	981	337	1.1	NH
KA2D	935,022	917	341	0.5	NLI
AA4R	745,308	814	309	1.3	NC
W1KT	686,280	671	344	1.5	WMA
WX1S	658,350	775	285	0.8	NH

Just as competitive, with six of the Top Ten being record-setting performances, the relatively new SOULP category is developing a set of "regulars" who will also be there, year-in and year-out. The three top scores were all separated by less than a percentage point, the top two were records in the 1st and 3rd districts, and the third would have been a record in the 1st district as well.

While most of the scores are clustered from EPA north and east, it's good to see WE9R (WI) placing consistently for the past couple of years. WB4OMM (NFL) and AA4R (NC) break out of the geographical pack, as well, from the southern Atlantic coast.

Multioperator

Before beginning to list each set of scores, I'd like to congratulate the station owners and their teams. Putting together a team and a station to enter these categories is no small feat. Murphy lives for multiops! To do it once is hard enough but to do it year after year at the level of many of these stations is simply extraordinary.

If you want to learn how to build and manage a communications system, volunteer your time at one of the big multi-op stations. You have to consider everything from ac and dc power through layer upon layer of RF equipment, antenna systems, computer software and networking, all the way up to the F layer of the ionosphere! And then there is the staffing and logistics of dealing with a team – who can be there Friday night, who are the best runners and who are the best pouncers, and the all-important decision to serve chili or lasagna?

Congratulations to each and every one of the station owners who builds and maintains stations at this level – or who even attempts to!

Multioperator, Single Transmitter

W-VE Top Ten Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
W2PV	7,510,293	4543	553	0.9	NH
K1LZ	6,708,876	4162	542	1.6	EMA
N4WW	3,928,344	2823	469	1.8	NFL
KØRF	3,563,802	2660	451	1.3	CO
W1NA	3,113,376	2323	452	3.5	EMA
WB9Z	3,098,592	2444	424	0.7	IL
N2IC	3,027,156	2440	418	1.4	NM
N1MM	2,986,164	2307	436	1.5	CT
W3MF	2,387,100	1840	436	1	EPA
W2FU	2,250,024	1836	413	1.4	WNY

In an unexpected turn of the tale, after four straight years of the superb K1LZ (EMA) team leading MSH by a wide margin, the W2PV (NH) crew pivoted from last year's MM entry to vault past K1LZ into first place and a new 1st district record on top of that. Well, hello there! Things were definitely a-scramble in MSH as N4WW appeared in 3rd and WB9Z (IL) and N2IC (NM) – calls usually associated with SO entries – both landed in the middle of the pack!

While W2PV and K1LZ were competing essentially against each other, the competition across the rest of the country – from New Mexico to New England – was tight. The margins were just a few thousand points in some cases – those are a lot of QSOs and very good accuracy percentages, as well.

W-VE Top Ten Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
NR4M	2,256,384	1825	416	1.2	VA
N1BA	1,633,464	1407	392	1.4	NH
N5DO	1,008,780	1013	340	2.6	WTX
K2PO	833,490	951	294	0.6	OR
W3ZGD	612,978	736	283	2.4	EPA
W2TZ	603,585	779	263	2.4	WNY
W3YI	278,343	555	169	1.9	WPA
W3WN	126,444	261	164	1.5	WPA
N9CM	64,050	177	122	1.7	WCF
WC2FD	53,757	189	99	5	NNJ

Meanwhile, with the amplifiers turned off, the QSOs were flying just as fast and furious in MSL. As noted at the beginning of the article, all three top finishers would have set a new All-Time record in the category – not your usual situation. Spread out across the country, winning station NR4M (VA), 2nd-place finisher N1BA (NH), and 3rd-place N5DO (WTX) all pushed the envelope in this new category. Congratulations to all three teams. Although only one can take the top prize – ya done good! K2PO (OR, 7th district) and W3ZGD (EPA, 3rd district) also set records.

Multioperator, Two Transmitter

W-VE Top Ten Multioperator, Two Transmitter

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
N2NT	7,143,840	4554	528	1.4	NNJ
KB1H	5,745,969	3845	501	1	CT
K9CT	5,568,000	3673	512	2	IL
K8AZ	5,307,153	3537	503	1	OH
KØTV	4,870,125	3395	481	0.9	NH
WX3B	4,324,500	3138	465	1.7	MDC
KA1ZD	3,636,684	2694	453	1.5	CT
W6WB	3,403,332	2845	402	1.1	EB
K2AX	3,060,225	2368	435	1.4	SNJ
KT4TX	2,556,444	2033	428	3.2	AL

As the station owners will attest, there is a big jump in station complexity when moving from multi-single to multi-two. The need to have two stations calling CQ at the same time means intermodulation and harmonics that might have been tolerable for a multi-single station are suddenly a major problem. Out come the filters and ferrites and the bypass capacitors! (The same issues must be dealt with for a single-op, two-radio station.) And the issues of band change timing must also be carefully managed so as not to lose valuable QSOs or (horrors!) multipliers!

Despite the challenges, the N2NT station came away with a convincing win from NNJ. In a real dogfight for second through fourth, KB1H (CT) came out on top chased hard from the Midwest by K9CT's new and growing station near Peoria, IL and by K8AZ's record-setting performance from the 8th district. You just can't lose a minute of sleep or afford to get penalized if you want to stay in the Top Ten!

Multioperator, Multitransmitter

W-VE Top Ten Multioperator, Multitransmitter

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
K3LR	15,571,080	7801	668	0.7	WPA
W3LPL	13,845,402	7347	631	0.9	MDC
WK1Q	8,366,295	5146	545	0.9	WMA
W4RM	6,636,942	4457	502	1.5	VA
K1KI	4,700,343	3216	491	1.3	CT
N6ZZ	3,890,025	3080	425	1.4	EB
NE3F	3,405,840	2525	460	2.5	EPA
WØAIH	3,290,805	2391	465	2.1	WI
K1KP	3,061,926	2574	399	1	EMA
W3DQ	678,153	762	301	1.6	MDC

The amount of work and planning and preparation goes up another 6 dB (at least) when a station makes the jump from M2 to MM. Now all those little issues you could work around or finesse at M2 become "must fix" problems for the successful MM team. If you think dancing around harmonics is fun at Field Day – try it with six full-power stations trying to hold a frequency and run stations all at the same time during critical grey line sunrise/sunset periods!

Each year, the competition between W3LPL and K3LR seems to push each team to greater and greater achievements. Each station has its own set of strengths as you can see in the following table of breakdowns. (This story could be retold for any pair of competitive stations in the list.) W3LPL (MDC) has a more southerly location and is a bit closer to Europe with a first hop clearly reflecting from saltwater. K3LR (WPA) on the other hand is just at about the right spot for optimum 20 and 40 meter performance into Europe and the station is enough closer to Asia to eke out a few dB of performance there. So W3LPL often does better on 160, sometimes 80, sometimes 15, and most years on 10. Conversely, K3LR has the edge on 20 and 40. Both stations have amazing antenna systems and are extremely scrupulous about accuracy and about observing power limits. Game on!

Call - QSOs	***Sec***	***160 Q***	***80 Q***	***40 Q***	***20 Q***	***15 Q***	***10 Q***
K3LR	WPA	113	**581**	**1329**	**2261**	2334	1183
W3LPL	MDC	**114**	530	1160	1912	**2434**	**1197**
WK1Q	WMA	71	359	610	1628	1852	626
W4RM	VA	37	231	625	1241	1571	752
K1KI	CT	35	117	521	792	1016	735
N6ZZ	EB	21	156	965	528	1113	297
NE3F	EPA	37	137	194	684	882	591
WØAIH	WI	22	117	272	755	850	375
K1KP	EMA	15	102	297	850	822	488
W3DQ	MDC	12	41	78	156	264	211
Call - QSOs	***Sec***	***160 M***	***80 M***	***40 M***	***20 M***	***15 M***	***10 M***
K3LR	WPA	**57**	**90**	**120**	**149**	**143**	109
W3LPL	MDC	56	85	106	135	136	**113**
WK1Q	WMA	42	77	86	126	123	91
W4RM	VA	30	69	87	117	113	86
K1KI	CT	29	62	86	108	113	93
N6ZZ	EB	17	47	90	106	108	57
NE3F	EPA	30	61	69	106	104	90
WØAIH	WI	22	62	78	110	111	82
K1KP	EMA	13	50	74	91	93	78
W3DQ	MDC	12	33	48	68	76	64

Each band-team knows that not only do they have to win for their station to win, but they have to win by *enough* to overcome the other station's advantage on the bands that they won't win. This year was K3LR's year as the bands that tipped W3LPL's way didn't quite tip far enough.

This year's win also provided K3LR with a first-ever sweep of the Big Four: ARRL DX Phone, ARRL DX CW, CQ WW SSB, and CQ WW CW. Tim has been chasing this prize a long time and credits his competition with pushing the station and each team of operators visiting the WPA station to get better every year.

Regional Leaders

SOQRP/LP/HP = Single-Op All-Band; SOULP/HP = Single-Op Unlimited; MSL/MSH = Multioperator, Single Transmitter

Northeast Region

New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections

Call	Score	Cat
N1TM	402,555	SOQRP
W2ID	130,824	SOQRP
W2WGK	101,088	SOQRP
W1TW	23,976	SOQRP
W1CEK	2,808	SOQRP
N1UR	2,801,970	SOLP
N1PGA	1,634,256	SOLP
KE3X	706,680	SOLP
WA2JQK	650,025	SOLP
W2TF	586,686	SOLP
VY2ZM	5,640,480	SOHP
W2RE	4,938,558	SOHP
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	4,374,360	SOHP
NC1I (K9PW, op)	3,695,913	SOHP
K1ZR	3,542,121	SOHP
K3WW	4,513,374	SOUHP
N3RS	3,519,585	SOUHP
AA3B	3,511,437	SOUHP
N2MM	3,220,140	SOUHP
W1GD	2,863,995	SOUHP
W1NT	1,228,857	SOULP
W3KB	1,219,392	SOULP
K1BX	1,216,614	SOULP
KA2KON	981,681	SOULP
KA2D	935,022	SOULP
W2PV	7,510,293	MSH
K1LZ	6,708,876	MSH
W1NA	3,113,376	MSH
N1MM	2,986,164	MSH
W3MF	2,387,100	MSH
N1BA	1,633,464	MSL
W3ZGD	612,978	MSL
W2TZ	603,585	MSL
W3YI	278,343	MSL
W3WN	126,444	MSL
N2NT	7,143,840	M2
KB1H	5,745,969	M2
KØTV	4,870,125	M2
WX3B	4,324,500	M2
KA1ZD	3,636,684	M2
K3LR	15,571,080	MM
W3LPL	13,845,402	MM
WK1Q	8,366,295	MM
K1KI	4,700,343	MM
NE3F	3,405,840	MM

Southeast Region

Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions

Call	Score	Cat
KS4X	188,877	SOQRP
NT4TS	179,550	SOQRP
N4ZAK	35,880	SOQRP
K3TW	22,176	SOQRP
KJ4FUU	3,219	SOQRP
WA1S	599,238	SOLP
K4DMR	478,956	SOLP
W4FT	386,073	SOLP
K4NC	328,440	SOLP
NR3X	319,716	SOLP
N5DX	4,201,245	SOHP
AD4Z	2,882,316	SOHP
K1TO	2,721,420	SOHP
K4AB	2,662,200	SOHP
K4JPD (N4OO, op)	2,045,406	SOHP
N4ZC	2,396,163	SOUHP
W3OA	1,557,600	SOUHP
K5EK	1,539,648	SOUHP
W3GQ	1,383,084	SOUHP
W4TTY	1,379,268	SOUHP
WB4OMM	1,119,492	SOULP
AA4R	745,308	SOULP
KT4ZB	567,675	SOULP
W4ZAO	363,771	SOULP
K4FS	350,898	SOULP
N4WW	3,928,344	MSH
N4JDB	297,135	MSH
K5KG	121,095	MSH
NR4M	2,256,384	MSL
N9CM	64,050	MSL
N7FF	3,960	MSL
WA4NZD	2,349	MSL
KT4TX	2,556,444	M2
W4ML	1,841,286	M2
W4RM	6,636,942	MM

Central Region

Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section

Call	Score	Cat
KT8K	164,268	SOQRP
AI9K	22,119	SOQRP
VA3RKM	3,330	SOQRP
K8DRT	765	SOQRP
KD2BGM	75	SOQRP
NA8V	1,328,250	SOLP
N4TZ	1,297,125	SOLP
KD9MS	632,388	SOLP
VE3NB	556,830	SOLP
VE3BR	507,756	SOLP
VE3EJ	5,314,140	SOHP
VB3E (VE3AT, op)	5,105,964	SOHP
W9RE	3,733,776	SOHP
K8GL	1,504,485	SOHP
N8BJQ	1,281,630	SOHP
W8MJ	2,192,649	SOUHP
N8TR	2,004,132	SOUHP
N2BJ	1,765,788	SOUHP
K9NW	1,261,065	SOUHP
WO9Z	1,238,769	SOUHP
WE9R	1,064,496	SOULP
K8LY	524,700	SOULP
VA3WU	318,150	SOULP
N8IL	262,818	SOULP
VE3IAE	259,569	SOULP
WB9Z	3,098,592	MSH
KD9ST	1,771,575	MSH
WW8OH	744,744	MSH
KY4KY	702,468	MSH
KC8PKY	6,804	MSL
K9CT	5,568,000	M2
K8AZ	5,307,153	M2
N8BI	1,890,504	M2
NØIJ	1,571,166	M2
K9IU	404,352	M2
WØAIH	3,290,805	MM

Midwest Region

Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections

Call	Score	Cat
NØKE	239,220	SOQRP
NDØC	225,345	SOQRP
KØOU	52,200	SOQRP
KKØQ	50,100	SOQRP
NØUR	18,972	SOQRP
N5AW	1,147,032	SOLP
WD5K	621,621	SOLP
W5GFI	383,640	SOLP
WBØTSR	218,022	SOLP
WØETT	203,988	SOLP
K5TR	2,389,146	SOHP
NR5M	2,222,841	SOHP
K5RX	1,492,260	SOHP
K7KU (KØKR, op)	897,444	SOHP
KØCN	515,844	SOHP
K5LLA	1,196,874	SOUHP
KØKX	1,170,723	SOUHP
VE4VT (VE4EAR, op)	787,440	SOUHP
N5JR	580,986	SOUHP
K5JTH	521,094	SOUHP
KCØDEB	345,966	SOULP
AAØAI	227,088	SOULP
KØOB	169,641	SOULP
KØMPH	166,608	SOULP
KIØJ	137,712	SOULP
KØRF	3,563,802	MSH
N2IC	3,027,156	MSH
K5UTD	997,776	MSH
WS5J	619,200	MSH
WC7WB	405,162	MSH
N5DO	1,008,780	MSL
KFØQ	9,234	MSL
NØMA	985,470	M2
K5WPN	153,792	M2
KKØSD	68,655	M2

West Coast Region

Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections

Call	Score	Cat
W6QU (W8QZA, op)	92,916	SOQRP
N6HI	6,072	SOQRP
KK7VL	1,254	SOQRP
N6RV	473,526	SOLP
K7ACZ	283,500	SOLP
VE6EX	240,588	SOLP
AA6K	199,125	SOLP
N7IR	194,040	SOLP
W6YI	1,565,748	SOHP
K5RR	1,001,286	SOHP
K6XX	813,564	SOHP
WA7LT	497,652	SOHP
KZ1W	379,665	SOHP
KO7AA	1,074,546	SOUHP
KG7H	680,394	SOUHP
K9JF	648,531	SOUHP
N6QQ	621,600	SOUHP
W1SRD	601,128	SOUHP
W7IV	639,144	SOULP
VA7BEC	283,434	SOULP
NN6CH	260,712	SOULP
N7FLT	182,268	SOULP
WA7DUH	175,680	SOULP
NX6T	1,140,192	MSH
AK7AZ	467,571	MSH
K6MMM	249,390	MSH
K6KO	213,144	MSH
W7IWW	167,076	MSH
K2PO	833,490	MSL
W6PW	40,515	MSL
VE7NA	12,300	MSL
W6WB	3,403,332	M2
N6ZZ	3,890,025	MM

DX Winners

Single Operator, High Power (SOHP)

This category could be renamed "Fellowship of the Traveling Hams" as only two of the operators (LX2A and PY2YU) stayed anywhere near their day-to-day homes to enter the contest. (P49Y is AE6Y and NH7A is also known as F5VHJ most of the time.) So consider that not only did they turn in exceptional scores, they also did it after a long trip, setting up gear, coping with jet lag, and so forth. Bravo!

DX Top Ten Single Operator, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
8P5A (W2SC, op)	9,277,644	8958	346	0.3	NA
P49Y	7,677,195	7673	335	0.5	SA
CR2X (ES2RR, op)	6,890,328	6930	332	0.2	EU
V26M (N3AD, op)	6,681,255	6929	323	0.5	NA
KP2M (N2TK, op)	6,237,840	6601	316	0.3	NA
PS2T (PY2YU, op)	4,600,077	6135	251	0.5	SA
LX7I (LX2A, op)	4,455,513	5155	289	0.4	EU
YN5Z (K7ZO, op)	4,356,108	5271	276	0.2	NA
NH7A	4,036,032	4782	286	1.9	OC
NP2N (K7EUG, op)	3,863,808	4572	288	3	NA

While it may have been a close shave between 8P5A's score and his previous record as noted earlier, there was nothing close about the first-place finish – his fourth in a row and sixth out of the past dozen years. 8P is far to the southeastern end of the Windward Islands – only J8 and J3 extend farther south – and that provides more opportunities for 10 and 15 meter propagation to the States at almost any solar flux level, compared to any other Caribbean station. The drawback is a more difficult path on 160 and 80 but this seems to have been compensated for in this year's results as 8P5A swept all of the QSO and Mult totals in SOHP.

2009 category winner, P49Y placed second from the South American island of Aruba and ES2RR traveled to the sunny Azores from Estonia to operate the Radio Arcala station, CR2X, on San Miguel Island, placing third and setting a new record. Three places, three continents!

The competition between 3rd, 4th, and 5th places was particularly tough with N3AD at V26M coming up just short of CR2X and N2TK operating KP2M just a bit off the pace for 5th, repeating their order of finish from last year. CR2X and V26M were just *one* QSO apart after log checking! The next four places were equally close. PY2YU traded great high-band totals at PS2T over LX2A's equally terrific low-band totals at LX7I to prevail. Taking a break from the Idaho weather in February, K7ZO put together a very nice score from portable gear in Nicaragua and almost caught LX7K. Additionally, it's very nice to see Oceania return to the Top Ten after last year's absence in the guise of NH7A. And last in the Top Ten from NP2N but definitely not least, K7EUG must be a *very* quick learner because this was his *first* contest as DX! It may help that he had a little practice with the guidance of his Elmer and dad, George W2VJN. There's more –the whole story about NP2N can be found preceding the regional write-ups.

Single Operator, Low Power

Although the Top Ten for SOLP lack full power levels, they almost all made up for it with proximity to the U.S.

DX Top Ten Single Operator, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
J88DR (G3TBK, op)	3,817,614	4618	277	0.5	NA
VP2V/KE2VB (KE2VB, op)	3,528,960	4629	256	0.8	NA
HI3TEJ	3,114,294	4108	254	0.6	NA
HI3TT	2,119,005	2984	245	3.8	NA
V31Y (K1LI, op)	1,786,428	2374	252	0.5	NA
EI9HX	1,262,202	2006	211	0.7	EU
WP2XX	1,203,276	2043	197	0.3	NA
XE1XOE	1,089,225	1570	235	1.8	NA
KP4EU	989,238	2106	158	1.2	NA
ZL3IO	903,261	1519	199	0.4	OC

G3TBK flew across the pond to Dominica, pushing J88DR to a first-place finish just ahead of KE2VB who was operating from VP2V. The breakdowns were almost mirror images: While neither station spent much time on 160, J88DR prevailed on 80 and 40, there was an almost exact tie on 20, and VP2V/KE2VB took the lead on 15 and 10 meters. With the QSO totals so close – just 9 separate the two stations – multipliers tipped the scales to J88DR in a photo finish.

North American calls dominated the rest of the Top Ten but there were two nice surprises. EI9HX snatched the 6th spot from the Emerald Isle, back across the Atlantic, the best showing from Europe in SOLP in at least a dozen years. ZL3IO spotted KH6 a couple of F layer hops and muscled Oceania back into the SOLP Top Ten for the first time since 2010. Congratulations to both!

Single Operator, QRP

Even with the fabled "DX Gain" from exotic call signs, QRP stations still have to make themselves heard and hold a frequency – not an easy chore even not during a contest! Yet here we have a table full of good scores from around the world.

DX Top Ten Single Operator, QRP

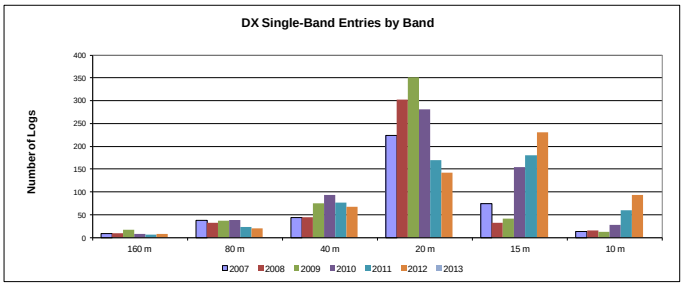
Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
YW2LV (YV5YMA, op)	1,826,496	2771	224	2.6	SA
F5BEG	159,894	379	141	0.3	EU
CO2CW	152,409	511	101	1.7	NA
DL8LR	65,268	222	98	0.9	EU
HG3M (HA3MY, op)	49,215	199	85	2.9	EU
EA3FF	36,252	163	76	3	EU
IK1BBC	32,472	165	66	0.6	EU
SP4LVK	31,752	171	63	1.7	EU
PY2BN	30,636	228	46	4.2	SA
OZ6OM	25,704	127	68	0.8	EU

The leader, with an unbelievably high score (it would have taken 5th place in SOLP) is YW2LV with operator YV5YMA at a station reported to be 1700 meters above the Caribbean.

Longtime SOQRP contender F5BEG is in second place for the 4th straight year and has been in the Top Ten for each of the dozen years your author has been writing up the DX Phone results. In a switch from the SOHP and SOLP Top Ten, Europeans generally hold sway here so it took some hard work by CO2CW to place 3rd by focusing exclusively on the high bands. PY2BN grabbed 9th place for South America, as well.

Single Operator, Single Band

This category is particularly popular outside the U.S. and Canada because the DX stations can pick a band with good propagation to North America from their part of the world and be on the air during those hours.



As with the North American logs, conditions have shifted the focus of DX stations from 20 meters to 15 and 10 meters since 2009. Unlike North Americans, 15 meters was the most popular this year as the openings were longer and deeper than on 10 meters. Assuming we have a couple more years of at least decent conditions above 15 MHz, the trends shown in the chart above should continue or at least hold near the current allocation of bands and logs. We shall see!

DX Top Ten Single Operator, 10 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
TO1A (F5HRY, op)	557,784	3059	61	SA
LU1FAM	508,680	2835	60	SA
LU7HN	425,700	2386	60	SA
LR2F	412,920	2306	60	SA
FM5BH	412,056	2355	59	NA
CR1Z (OH2BH, op)	361,080	2010	60	EU
PY2LED	357,717	2031	59	SA
6V7S (RK4FF, op)	307,803	1750	59	AF
PU5FJR	296,100	1660	60	SA
PU2LEP	277,005	1572	59	SA

Here in the middling years of sunspots, there is enough ionosphere to make 10 meters play well north of the Equator, so we have several stations in the Top Ten from outside the trans-equatorial propagation (TEP) zone in South America.

The nice winning score by TO1A was from French Guyana, FY, and made by F5HRY at the controls. The score managed to stay ahead of three very competitive Argentinians; LU1FAM, LU7HN, and LR2F.

FM5BH turned in a very nice score just barely out of 4th place – the closest Top Ten station to the W and VE operators. CR1Z was driven hard from the Azores by OH2BH and RK4FF traveled to Senegal to operate 6V7S but there wasn't enough east-west propagation this year for a higher place. Nevertheless, this is the first appearance among the 10 meter Top Ten by an African mainland station in many years!

DX Top Ten Single Operator, 15 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
FY5KE (F1HAR, op)	673,074	3688	61	SA
ZF2AH	631,260	3527	60	NA
PX5E (PP5JR, op)	507,600	2831	60	SA
TMØT (F/TU5KG, op)	385,398	2122	61	EU
CO6LC	364,620	2074	59	NA
S5ØK	329,040	1839	60	EU
S55T (S55OO, op)	307,980	1744	59	EU
HA3OV	291,342	1653	59	EU
3Z5N (SP5GRM, op)	278,400	1609	58	EU
HQ2N (JA6WFM, op)	277,359	1574	59	NA

We certainly seem to be returning to that far southeastern corner of the Caribbean where the Windward Islands

nearly touch South America – that was obviously a good spot for ARRL DX Phone this year. The familiar FY5KE call sign (F1HAR, op) tops the SOSB-15 list this year. If this category isn't won from Africa, the winner is usually from PY or ZX but conditions were good enough for a strong effort to take the prize from farther north. As we reported in the Records section, conditions weren't quite good enough for ZF2AH to prevail, completing a sweep of the SOSB top spots, so second place will have to do this year. Frequent Top Ten operator PP5JR re-appeared as PX5E in third place.

Conditions were good enough for a string of European stations – TMØT, S5ØK, S55T, and HA3OV - to fill out the list, although CO6LC made it at the 5th spot and JA6WFM probably traveled the farthest of any guest operator to place 10th from HQ2N.

DX Top Ten Single Operator, 20 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
KP2MM (N2TTA, op)	408,516	2335	59	NA
OH8X (OH6UM, op)	396,540	2206	60	EU
PW5G (PP5WG, op)	391,254	2162	61	SA
C6AZZ (KQ8Z, op)	300,303	1644	61	NA
HK3C	296,100	1659	60	SA
FM5FJ	293,220	1640	60	NA
YU7AV	278,280	1559	60	EU
SN3X (SP3SLA, op)	261,516	1418	62	EU
EE8T	258,396	1424	61	AF
TM4L (F8ARK, op)	255,006	1393	62	EU

The 1st-2nd-3rd place race was conducted across three very different and very separate locations. The winner from the U.S. Virgin Islands (KP2MM – N2TTA, op) was fairly close to the U.S. mainland. OH6UM, however, shivered his way to 2nd place from the Radio Arcala station, OH8X, in the upper provinces of Finland. Meanwhile, PP5WG was sweltering in the summer heat of Brazil and putting PW5G in our logs.

The closeness of the three top scores – only a couple of percent apart – shows that when 20 meters is open, it's open and everybody can play! In fact, the entire Top Ten bounced from continent to continent throughout the remaining scores: NA-SA-EU-AF.

DX Top Ten Single Operator, 40 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
YY4DNN	349,221	2010	59	SA
CQ8X (OH8NC, op)	299,040	1788	56	EU
EF7X (EA7KW, op)	247,608	1460	57	EU
CO8ZZ	119,955	730	55	NA
YW5T (YV5JBI, op)	104,193	689	51	SA
S56X	102,492	673	52	EU
EA3CI	96,513	612	53	EU
S54ZZ	91,875	631	49	EU
CE3EEA	71,280	453	54	SA
SN3R (SQ6NTM, op)	60,360	511	40	EU

YY4DNN's victory on 40 meters makes 2013 the third straight year that the band has been won from somewhere to the south of the U.S. and Canada. Africa, Oceania, and Europe have all been atop the standings in recent years – this is a band that can be won from northwest Africa, too!

The band pivoted from north-south back to east-west for the next two spots - CQ8X (OH8NC, op) with another fine performance from the current radio hot-spot of the Azores and EF7X (EA7KW, op) calling from mainland Spain. There were many strong performances from Cuba this year such as CO8ZZ's 4th-place finish on 40 meters.

DX Top Ten Single Operator, 80 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
KP4KE	165,480	988	56	NA
GM3PPG (G4BYB, op)	125,424	806	52	EU
YV5MSG	89,586	558	54	SA
CO6CAC	87,450	554	53	NA
CT2ITR	70,740	526	45	EU
OK7K (OK1NS, op)	65,142	530	42	EU
EA7EU	55,476	408	46	EU
OM2KI	46,449	409	39	EU
F6IGS	29,400	285	35	EU
HK6P	28,509	223	43	SA

You would think that only close-in stations could win on 80 but the past five years have seen five different continents win on 80 meters: this year's win from North America by KP4KE, 2012 – YW5T (SA), 2011 – CT3DZ (AF), 2010 – KH6LC (OC), and 2009 – CU2X (EU). The Top Ten moves around quite a lot this year, as well with G4BYB doing a super job from GM3PPG in second place. YV5MSG then out-dueled CO6CAC in a close race for 4th.

DX Single Operator, 160 Meters

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Cont*
KV4FZ	51,183	365	47	NA
OK1W	288	12	8	EU
SP1GZF	90	6	5	EU
LU2DVI	27	3	3	SA
RY7Y	12	2	2	EU

Congratulations to KV4FZ for putting together a third win on Top Band – his 7th out of the past 9 years and 3rd in a row! Without really good conditions, this is a doggedly tough band for working DX on phone but five stations gave it a try, including RY7Y's dozen QSOs from the Ukraine.

Single Operator Unlimited

Just as the category continues to grow for W-VE stations, SOU participation is increasing outside the U.S. As you look back through the Top Ten of SOU, you can clearly see where good connections to the Internet were available and where they weren't. When broadband replaced dial-up (and large fees for weekend-long connections) SOU expanded its reach dramatically.

Having reached parity with SOLP last year, DX stations in the SOU category are only second to SOSB logs. In the next two or three years, it's likely that SOU will become the most popular category worldwide!

It remains interesting to note that the Top Ten SOHP stations had significantly higher multiplier totals on average than the Top Ten SOUHP stations.

DX Top Ten Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
CE3CT	3,691,776	4833	256	0.6	SA
ZZ2T (PY2MNL, op)	2,831,706	3856	246	0.5	SA
EB3CW	2,586,708	3359	258	0.7	EU
IR2C (IW2HAJ, op)	2,405,160	3172	255	0.9	EU
OK1GTH	2,187,438	3048	242	1.3	EU
ZM1A (ZL3CW, op)	1,528,230	2124	242	1.1	OC
OS8A	1,362,060	2192	210	1.7	EU
EI3KG	1,285,200	2060	210	1	EU
S52WW	1,205,595	1857	219	1.4	EU
EA7RU	1,102,950	1728	215	1	EU

This year the top score returned to South America as CE3CT turned in a very strong effort from Chile. Fellow South American PY2MNL – operating as ZZ2T – came in second as he did in 2012, following a category win in 2011. Three closely-packed Europeans (EB3CW, IR2C with operator IW2HAJ, and OK1GTH) finished 3-4-5. ZL3CW put Oceania on the Top Ten list with a 6th place finish from New Zealand as ZM1A.

DX Top Ten Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
P4ØP (W5AJ, op)	4,630,209	4951	313	0.4	SA
KP2/KØBBC	1,524,507	2657	193	1	NA
KP2DX (KP2BH, op)	1,199,862	2097	191	0.6	NA
TM1E (F1JRD, op)	832,842	1442	194	1	EU
IB1B (IW1QN, op)	724,032	1270	192	1	EU
IZ5EBL	680,241	1163	197	1.3	EU
V4/ACØW	672,252	1493	151	0.6	NA
3G1D (CE1VIL, op)	583,464	1298	151	1.4	SA
TM7X (F5BSB, op)	458,337	824	187	0.8	EU
CO2WL	413,478	833	171	4.7	NA

Quite a performance from the famous Aruba station of AI6V as W5AJ operating with the call P4ØP outclassed the category and set a new all-time record for SOULP. The score would have topped the SOLP category easily and would even been 6th in the SOHP group!

In second and third place, a pair of KP2 stations duked it out – KØBBC came out on top with another record for NA just ahead of KP2BH sporting the catchy call sign KP2DX. Fourth-place went to another record-setter – TM1E with F1JRD at the microphone.

Multioperator, Single Transmitter

DX Top Ten Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
PJ2T	8,271,822	8056	346	1.1	SA
VP5H	7,703,358	7646	338	0.7	NA
EI7M	5,301,000	5914	300	0.4	EU
XE7S	5,242,560	5491	320	0.6	NA
CS2C	5,189,940	5526	315	0.6	EU
TO22C	4,626,453	5014	313	1.7	NA
ED1R	3,940,695	4663	285	1.6	EU
IO5O	3,011,952	3850	262	0.5	EU
EF8R	2,593,410	3196	274	1.4	AF
TM1T	2,547,360	3518	244	1.6	EU

Two big teams went after the MSH title from the Caribbean this year. While the VP5H operators got real close on the multiplier count, they just couldn't overcome the PJ2T QSO totals, especially on 15 and 10 meters, so the title remains on the Curacao cliff for the second year in a row.

Three very close races followed and the Irish team of EI7M proved to be the better this year, finishing just ahead of the XE7S team by about a percent. CS2C was just another one percent back in 5th place. Exceptionally good accuracy made these races particularly exciting!

DX Top Ten Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Cont*
VP9I	4,147,266	4654	298	0.3	NA
HI3K	3,165,120	3818	280	1.5	NA
V31VJ	1,931,904	2518	258	0.9	NA
WP3DX	1,278,900	2459	175	1	NA
PW1A	1,203,270	2131	190	1	SA
KH6RC	962,745	1865	173	0.6	OC
KH6CJJ	547,956	991	186	0.9	OC
GT8IOM	323,439	833	131	1.5	EU
CE2LS	318,384	743	144	0.8	SA
PY2RH	314,976	783	136	2.7	SA

Popularly known as the "boys and their radio" category – although is certainly a lot more to it than that – this third year of the MSL category continues to draw more attention. Three records were set – by KH6RC on the island of Maui for Oceania, GT8IOM for Europe, and ZS6WN with a first-ever MSL entry from Africa (although not a Top Ten score).

Why is Bob, WA1Z smiling? Because he and Kurt, W6PH just mashed the MSL category as VP9I after coming in second in 2012, that's why! The HI3K team put up a good fight but when the hops fall in the right spot, VP9 is a hard spot to beat.

Multioperator, Two Transmitter

DX Top Ten Multioperator, Two Transmitter

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
PJ4G	12,375,231	12140	341	0.4	SA
TM6M	7,516,740	8157	308	0.3	EU
TI8M	6,618,240	6947	320	0.8	NA
HD2A	5,587,296	6361	296	1.3	SA
II9P	4,125,915	5031	277	1.5	EU
PX2C	4,112,325	5647	245	1.1	SA
HG7T	3,186,477	4154	259	1.6	EU
9A7A	3,176,496	4147	258	1.4	EU
PI4DX	2,703,114	3460	263	1.2	EU
ZV5O	2,508,822	3801	222	1	SA

After a winning effort last year in SOUHP, K2NG returned to lead a team to the top of M2 as he had in 2011. Lots of QSOs and a world-class error rate will get you to the top, especially from a great location in Bonaire! The TM6M team certainly did well, too, smashing through the old EU record.

It looks to me like the M2 category was full of good efforts. All of the Top Ten scorers logged more than 3500 QSOs, which is a lot of contacts even for capable stations, and would have competed for the Top Ten in the MM category!

Multioperator, Multitransmitter

DX Top Ten Multioperator, Multitransmitter

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Error %*	*Section*
HK1NA	15,278,994	14472	354	0.7	SA
C6ANM	5,954,382	6360	314	0.6	NA
9A1A	5,795,712	6762	288	0.9	EU
LP1H	5,627,421	7213	261	0.5	SA
9A1P	5,103,648	5964	288	1.1	EU
E7DX	4,396,122	5228	283	1.4	EU
HA3ØS	3,612,168	4843	252	1.7	EU
LZ9W	3,537,360	4411	272	2	EU
JA3YBK	1,467,144	2322	213	1.2	AS
G1ØØC	1,054,755	1837	195	2.4	EU

We have a new champ this year with a new all-time MM record, as well – HK1NA, led by Jorge, HK1R. The team from Colombia was in a class by themselves, pushing this continually improving station to a terrific score. There have been some serious stations doing MM in the past but HK1NA didn't just break the record, they nearly doubled it!

Elsewhere, the heavy hitting was between a team in the Bahamas (C6ANM), a pair of Croatian powerhouses (9A1A and 9A1P), and the reliable LP1H from Argentina. All were crammed into the 5 Mpoint range and second place could have gone to any one of them had propagation shifted just a bit. I'd also like to recognize the lone Asian call in the DX Top Ten this year – the JA3YBK beacon. If the band is open to JA, you'll hear JA3YBK.

Continental Leaders

Call	*Score*	*Cat*
Africa		
EF8U (IK1HJS, op)	3,313,542	SOHP
EF8O (EA8OM, op)	39,738	SOLP
J28AA (E7ØA, op)	900	SOQRP
EA8CNB	74,088	SOUHP
EA8BZH	56,604	SOULP
6V7S (RK4FF, op)	307,803	SOSB-10
CT3BD	121,278	SOSB-15
EA8CNR	1,581	SOSB-40
ZS6WN	173,628	MSL
Asia		
JAØJHA	888,282	SOHP
JH4UYB	264,576	SOLP
JR4DAH	21,306	SOQRP
JF2QNM	136,998	SOUHP
8N1TW (JM1UWB, op)	88,164	SOULP
JF1SQC	726	SOSB-10
JR1CBC	168,780	SOSB-15
JI1LET	38,364	SOSB-20
JA1XMS	33,462	SOSB-40
JE1SPY	399	SOSB-80
JA8RWU	591,126	MSH
RKØAWQ	48	MSL
JA1YPA	97,170	M2
JA3YBK	1,467,144	MM
Europe		
CR2X (ES2RR, op)	6,890,328	SOHP
EI9HX	1,262,202	SOLP
F5BEG	159,894	SOQRP
EB3CW	2,586,708	SOUHP
TM1E (F1JRD, op)	832,842	SOULP
CR1Z (OH2BH, op)	361,080	SOSB-10
TMØT (TU5KG, op)	385,398	SOSB-15
OH8X (OH6UM, op)	396,540	SOSB-20
CQ8X (OH8NC, op)	299,040	SOSB-40
GM3PPG (G4BYB, op)	125,424	SOSB-80
OK1W	288	SOSB-160
EI7M	5,301,000	MSH
GT8IOM	323,439	MSL
TM6M	7,516,740	M2
9A1A	5,795,712	MM
North America		
8P5A (W2SC, op)	9,277,644	SOHP
J88DR (G3TBK, op)	3,817,614	SOLP
CO2CW	152,409	SOQRP
XE1OGG	585,144	SOUHP
KP2/KØBBC	1,524,507	SOULP
FM5BH	412,056	SOSB-10
ZF2AH	631,260	SOSB-15
KP2MM (N2TTA, op)	408,516	SOSB-20
KP4KE	165,480	SOSB-80
KV4FZ	51,183	SOSB-160
VP5H	7,703,358	MSH
VP9I	4,147,266	MSL
TI8M	6,618,240	M2
C6ANM	5,954,382	MM
Oceania		
NH7A	4,036,032	SOHP
ZL3IO	903,261	SOLP
NH6AB	11,172	SOQRP
ZM1A (ZL3CW, op)	1,528,230	SOUHP
YBØNFL	9,348	SOULP
KH7Y	172,068	SOSB-10
DU1EG	1,242	SOSB-15
VK3GK	10,170	SOSB-20
VK4TS	27,720	SOSB-40
KH6QJ	135	SOSB-80
VK3VT	4,602	MSH
KH6RC	962,745	MSL
South America		
P49Y (AE6Y, op)	7,677,195	SOHP
LO7H (LU7HW, op)	716,568	SOLP
YW2LV (YV5YMA, op)	1,826,496	SOQRP
CE3CT	3,691,776	SOUHP
P4ØP (W5AJ, op)	4,630,209	SOULP
TO1A (F5HRY, op)	557,784	SOSB-10
FY5KE (F1HAR, op)	673,074	SOSB-15
PW5G (PP5WG, op)	391,254	SOSB-20
LU2DVI	27	SOSB-160
PJ2T	8,271,822	MSH
PW1A	1,203,270	MSL
PJ4G	12,375,231	M2
HK1NA	15,278,994	MM

Wrapping It All Up

Noticeably absent from the Top Ten in this year's results are stations from Asia – where our Top Ten's regularly featured JA and UAØ call signs, they have become increasingly rare. There are probably a collection of reasons – conditions, QRM from pirates and HF radars and shortwave broadcast stations, lack of recognition? What can we do to encourage more of our Asian friends to send in logs and see their scores in the results?

The ARRL Soapbox web pages (**www.arrl.org/soapbox**) contain more photos and stories, too. Even more Soapbox commentary is compiled by Dink, N7WA from the popular 3830 score posting website at **www.eskimo.com/~mwdink/3830** and he has created simple score report generating "apps" for devices running the Android operating system. Go to your online app store and search for N7WA. Every soapbox tells a story!

As this article goes to press, there are conflicting predictions about the future of Cycle 24 and of solar cycles, generally. Some expect another peak similar to 2011-12 to occur late this year or early next. Others say the fall and winter of 2012-2013 was as good as it's going to get. I suspect that the only way to really tell will be to turn on your radio during the two weekends of ARRL DX 2014 (15/16 Feb and 1/2 Mar) and see what you hear – then log it!

And your 2014 contest author will be someone new after my dozen years at the keyboard. I figure that a solar cycle is long enough to have my say and return to the ranks of those making the news instead of reporting on it. Thanks to all of you who took the time to read and comment on these writeups – perhaps we'll meet in each other's logs in the future!

73, Ward NØAX

Regional Analysis

Following the story of K7EUG's contest adventure, you'll find write-ups from most of the ARRL Divisions and from several continents around the world. The goal of providing these targeted write-ups is to recognize the contest's "look and feel" from specific areas around the world. Regional write-ups also provide recognition of great efforts not in the overall limelight and emphasize peer-versus-peer competition that is an often overlooked reason for hams to join in the contest.

In a DX contest spread across the world, the variations at smaller scales are often what hold our personal interest. It's definitely worth taking a minute to read the analysis for your region about the contest from your area.

In particular, I would like to sound a note of appreciation the support of the numerous volunteers who have contributed to the online write-ups with sidebars and regional analysis that follow this section of the writeup. Some have contributed reliably for a decade. Don't forget to say "Thanks!" to them.

While I'm at it, I'd also like to thank the log checkers, robot wranglers, and certificate printers who do all the paddling under the water where you can't see it! Many of the ARRL log checkers handle more than one contest, engaging in continual improvement to make the results better and better every year. We are in their debt for the untold hours they spend supporting the contests.

Regional Analysis begins with the Division Winner tables – the top scores in each category from your ARRL Division. Writeups from the divisions follow and are themselves followed by write-ups from a variety of DX locations. If you've enjoyed reading these write-ups, consider writing one yourself! The new editor will appreciate your support.

First Time's the Charm

In working through the various stories and Soapbox entries, I stumbled on one I thought I had mis-read – that K7EUG operated from NP2N and made the Top Ten. OK, but in his very *first* try from outside the States? I communicated a bit with Brad and asked him to tell his story for us – I think you'll agree that not only does it tell an interesting story, it highlights in concentrated form the mentoring we have all received at various times along the way. This is what happens when you "pay it forward." I hope you enjoy Brad's story.

In the 1960's I was working hard to get my Novice license, then came along came high school and no license came my way. The desire remained, but the rigors of college and then being an architect and having a family just didn't provide an opportunity to finish what I started. All that changed in 1995 when I met Sue Cutsogeorge. Little did I know that Sue (KC7IJY) was a licensed ham, but so was her father George (W2VJN). Over time, as I became a member of the Cutsogeorge family, I was taken by George's station….and his long history in Amateur Radio and demonstrated success as a contester. I found it all to be amazing!

All of that rekindled my interest in getting licensed. I quietly studied for months, passing the first two licenses then to obtain an Extra class license in early 2008. At that point, I sprang the news on George that there was a new ham in the family. After the surprise wore off, many congratulations and unconditional offers of assistance and mentorship began coming my way. Along the way, the topic of contesting arose on multiple occasions.

In 2009 I attended Contest University while in Dayton at the Hamvention with George. They did a great job of presenting the challenges and opportunities that come with contesting. It was a big step toward entering the world of contesting. I found it to have been both an educational and motivating experience. The many limitations of my small station caused me to create a perception that I couldn't be a contester. Over the past few years, I participated in a few contests with, shall we say, very limited success. The idea of what it meant to be a contester hadn't yet taken a firm hold, but the seed was still planted.

In the summer of 2012, George suggested that we go somewhere warm in the fall for a bit of a DXpedition and so that he could participate in the fall CQWW DX CW contest. After a bit a research and talking with friends who live on St. Croix we made arrangements with NP2N for the use of his "Mountain Breeze" station. So, off to St. Croix for some DX'ing, contesting and Thanksgiving.

While there, I worked vacation style, learning the ins and outs of dealing with large pile-ups. With encouragement from George, I used WinTest to log my DX activity. It was another key learning experience that helped me enter the contesting world. Operating vacation style was also an opportunity polishing my listening and operating skills in a low-pressure non-stop environment. George, being a good mentor, pointed out that all this kind of experience was developing the basic skills needed for contest operating. Ah..ha! The contesting seed was now beginning to sprout and to take root. I told myself I could do this! While George's operated during the CW contest, I took the opportunity to be a mouse in the corner, watching and taking in the contest ethers.

Brad, K7EUG operated from NP2N in his first try at contesting outside the U.S. and at the checkered flag found himself at #10 SOHP! (Photo by W2VJN)

While on St. Croix, George and Dave Hawes, N3RD, offered many useful and valuable "contesting" tips that I began to integrate into the daily operating routine. When we left in late November 2012, the contesting bug was alive, just awaiting the opportunity to surface.

In December 2012, NP2N graciously and unexpectedly offered his station on St. Croix to us for the ARRL CW and SSB contests in February and March of 2013. We immediately accepted the offer, booked airfare and began to plan for how we would work the two ARRL contests along with the 160 Meter CQ WW SSB contest. Realizing that there would be three contests in less than three weeks, I knew my 1st real contest was staring me in the face. Was I up for the challenge? You bet! I knew that the sound contesting advice received from W2VJN, N3RD, and Mark Perrin, N7MQ, combined with the knowledge from the Contest University along with a lot of practice listening and logging would be a sound basis to create some level of success.

Part of taking on my first true "big time" contest experience was managing my personal expectations about the outcome from the outset. In chatting with George on the flight to St. Croix, he asked about my expectations for the SSB contest. I told him that as a SOAB HP entry (using the NP2N call sign), my expectations were very simple: 1) approach the contest seriously, but have fun being part of all of it; 2) try to work at least 36 of the 48 hours; and 3) work enough contacts to earn a respectable showing. Scoring in the top 100 seemed to be remotely possible and what I thought would be an aggressive goal. All of these seemed like reasonable expectations for a first real venture into the world of contesting.

When it came to expected outcomes, George held a very different view. He was very clear about what he thought it was likely that if I worked hard, I could finish in the top 10 of DX stations. I told him, it was a nice thought and appreciated his faith in my abilities, but told him such a high standing was probably unrealistic. Frankly, at that moment, such a finish felt completely unattainable. Being in the top 100 was a maybe, but top 10, no way! Little did I know….I should have listened to his predictions.

Almost immediately after the SSB contest began, I was hooked. I became fully immersed in all of it and finally understood the draw of contesting! What a nice understanding to have gained. Without recognizing it my expectations had changed in just the first few hours of contesting. The focus was all about making as many contacts as possible on as many bands a possible. Time didn't seem to have place in the equation…it was as though it had stopped.

I found the experience to be non-stop fun and a constant challenge. Managing contacts, tracking rates, checking multipliers, contacts per band and band management all took far more strategy and mental effort than I anticipated. I found on numerous occasions I worked the stations of friends, but in the heat of the contest, I barely recognized them. It was as though tunnel vision had set in. I was focused on listening and logging the contact accurately all why trying to manage an effective contest strategy. I found myself intrigued and challenged by the complexity and dynamic nature of all of it.

Before I knew it the first six hours had quickly passed. George arrived in the shack, took a quick look at the log on the netbook, burst into a huge grin, patted me on the back, asked if I needed anything and then headed back up stairs for some additional sleep time. Cool……I had just scored a clear vote of confidence and support from a true contester! What could have been better encouragement?

At that point, I knew that I must have been doing a great deal of all of it fairly well. I diligently worked 37 of the 48 hours, making over 4700 contacts and racking up over 4 million points. When the contest ended, the number of contacts and how large my score had become surprised me. George was quick to do an analysis of the log and debriefing ways that I could have been more effective. It was readily apparent that I had made a tactical error by not spending enough time on 160 meters. I had too few contacts and far too few multipliers there. That was the weak link in my performance. The debriefing was very information and clearly a meaningful learning experience.

My first contesting experience has clearly fed my interest in taking on more in the future. What a great experience! Finishing 11th (at the moment) against all of the DX stations was stunning. (*Brad's score held up and he finished at #10 – Ed.*) My initial expectations were blown completely out of the water! And yes…..George's prediction on the final score was right on the money! AMAZING! All of this is clear motivation to continue developing my abilities and skills as a contester. I couldn't think of a better first experience! It also pointed out how much more knowledge and experience is needed to be a true contester. Are there more contests in my immediate future? YES! We've already begun discussions about where to go in the fall to contest!

The success I achieved in my first outing in a major contest environment was the result of practice, preparation and the encouragement, advice and mentorship I received from George (W2VJN), Dave (N3RD), Mark (N7MQ), the Contest University, and others. My thanks go out to all of them. In the end, everything came together at the right time to create success far beyond what I thought possible. It's clearly a strong motivator to continue on the path of becoming a true contester. It's opened my eyes to a whole new realm of ham radio. I'm sure that contesting will clearly be part of my future in ham radio.

Division Winners

Division	*Call*	*Score*
	Single Operator, QRP	
Atlantic	NA1DX	1,863
Central	AI9K	22,119
Dakota	NDØC	225,345
Delta	KS4X	188,877
Great Lakes	KT8K	164,268
Hudson	W2ID	130,824
Midwest	KØOU	52,200
New England	N1TM	402,555
Northwestern	KK7VL	1,254
Roanoke	N4ZAK	35,880
Rocky Mountain	NØKE	239,220
Southeastern	NT4TS	179,550
Southwestern	W6QU (W8QZA, op)	92,916
West Gulf	WA5RML	126
Canada	VA3RKM	3,330
	Single Operator, Low Power	
Atlantic	KE3X	706,680
Central	N4TZ	1,297,125
Dakota	WBØTSR	218,022
Delta	N2WN	152,775
Great Lakes	NA8V	1,328,250
Hudson	WA2JQK	650,025
Midwest	ADØH	146,772
New England	N1UR	2,801,970
Northwestern	N7VZU	112,266
PAC	K7ACZ	283,500
Roanoke	K4DMR	478,956
Rocky Mountain	WØETT	203,988
Southeastern	WA1S	599,238
Southwestern	N6RV	473,526
West Gulf	N5AW	1,147,032
Canada	VE3NB	556,830
Atlantic	W2RE	4,938,558
	Single Operator, High Power	
Central	W9RE	3,733,776
Dakota	KØCN	515,844
Delta	N5DX	4,201,245
Great Lakes	K8GL	1,504,485
Hudson	N2RJ	1,686,576
Midwest	N7WY/Ø	280,320
New England	NC1I (K9PW, op)	3,695,913
Northwestern	WA7LT	497,652
PAC	K6XX	813,564
Roanoke	KU4V	758,430
Rocky Mountain	K7KU (KØKR, op)	897,444
Southeastern	AD4Z	2,882,316
Southwestern	W6YI	1,565,748
West Gulf	K5TR	2,389,146
Canada	VY2ZM	5,640,480
	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power	
Atlantic	K3WW	4,513,374
Central	N2BJ	1,765,788
Dakota	KØKX	1,170,723
Great Lakes	W8MJ	2,192,649
Hudson	W1GD	2,863,995
Midwest	KØJPL	437,388
New England	K1HI	1,978,470
Northwestern	KG7H	680,394
PAC	W1SRD	601,128
Roanoke	N4ZC	2,396,163
Rocky Mountain	W7CT	71,484
Southeastern	K5AUP	1,144,884
Southwestern	KO7AA	1,074,546
West Gulf	K5LLA	1,196,874
Canada	VA2AM	1,192,800
	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power	
Atlantic	W3KB	1,219,392
Central	WE9R	1,064,496
Dakota	KØOB	169,641
Delta	W5YH	136,038
Great Lakes	K8LY	524,700
Hudson	KA2D	935,022
Midwest	KCØDEB	345,966
New England	W1NT	1,228,857
Northwestern	N7FLT	182,268
PAC	N6OI	45,318
Roanoke	AA4R	745,308
Rocky Mountain	KIØJ	137,712
Southeastern	WB4OMM	1,119,492
Southwestern	W7IV	639,144
West Gulf	W1JCW	36,942
Canada	VE9ML	567,474
	Single Operator, Single Band, 10 Meters	
Atlantic	W3BGN	247,194
Central	K9BGL	187,824
Delta	KD5J	23,088
Great Lakes	KB8U	55,755
Hudson	WB2AMU	31,080
New England	W3EP	148,653
Northwestern	KD7ZLF	2,106
PAC	W7DR	23,364
Roanoke	N8II	204,363
Rocky Mountain	K7ULS	1,566
Southeastern	K4WI	108,570
Southwestern	KI6LZ	19,803
West Gulf	W5PR	172,536
Canada	VE6BMX	3,762
	Single Operator, Single Band, 15 Meters	
Atlantic	K3ISH	20,124
Central	N9TGR	162,960
Dakota	KJØP	2,001
Delta	WD5R	175,152
Great Lakes	WA8RCN	137,547
Hudson	K2MFY	15,264
Midwest	WA5SWN	31,086
New England	N1DC	48,384
Northwestern	K7GS	891
PAC	NU6S	182,016
Roanoke	WB1CZX	396
Rocky Mountain	N7DR	45,933
Southeastern	N4PN	527,904
Southwestern	N7DD	456,780
West Gulf	AK5DX	140,868
Canada	VE3KZ	322,500
	Single Operator, Single Band, 20 Meters	
Atlantic	WB3CII	20,295
Central	W9WJ	45,369
Delta	W4RRE	49,665
Great Lakes	W8GOC	22,509
Hudson	WR2G	143,112
Midwest	KAØP	48
New England	W1AVK	83,106
Northwestern	K7MH	110,424
PAC	K6HNZ	120,486
Roanoke	W4AAA (KK9A, op)	801,288
Southeastern	W4SVO	398,196
Canada	VA7ST	72,150
	Single Operator, Single Band, 40 Meters	
Atlantic	N2HR	12,726
Delta	W6CSA	630
Great Lakes	K8DJC	32,256
Hudson	K4BNC	13,770
New England	W1FQ	38,916
Northwestern	W7WA	242,520
PAC	W6RKC	5,490
Roanoke	K3ZJ	94,464
Southeastern	N3LL	30,132
Southwestern	K7WP	18,600
Canada	VE3MIS (VE3VE, op)	74,292
	Single Operator, Single Band, 80 Meters	
Central	WI9H	2,574
Delta	N4DTF	5,100
Great Lakes	KT8D	10,434
New England	W1XX	71,610
Roanoke	WX4G	44,622
Southeastern	K1KNQ	25,926

Single Operator, Single Band, 160 Meters		
Atlantic	W2MF	11,952
Delta	K4EJQ	630
New England	KM1R	2,418
Rocky Mountain	WD5COV	867
Southeastern	AG4W	1,872
Canada	VE3EDY	1,260
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power		
Atlantic	W3MF	2,387,100
Central	WB9Z	3,098,592
Dakota	KØJE	344,520
Great Lakes	WW8OH	744,744
Hudson	AB2DE	683,397
Midwest	KØLIB	259,080
New England	W2PV	7,510,293
Northwestern	W7IWW	167,076
PAC	K6MMM	249,390
Rocky Mountain	KØRF	3,563,802
Southeastern	N4WW	3,928,344
Southwestern	NX6T	1,140,192
West Gulf	K5UTD	997,776
Canada	VE2NGH	1,244,100
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power		
Atlantic	W3ZGD	612,978
Dakota	KFØQ	9,234
Delta	N7FF	3,960
Great Lakes	KC8PKY	6,804
Hudson	WC2FD	53,757
New England	N1BA	1,633,464
Northwestern	K2PO	833,490
PAC	W6PW	40,515
Roanoke	NR4M	2,256,384
Southeastern	N9CM	64,050
West Gulf	N5DO	1,008,780
Canada	VE7NA	12,300
Multioperator, Two Transmitter		
Atlantic	WX3B	4,324,500
Central	K9CT	5,568,000
Dakota	KKØSD	68,655
Great Lakes	K8AZ	5,307,153
Hudson	N2NT	7,143,840
Midwest	NØMA	985,470
New England	KB1H	5,745,969
PAC	W6WB	3,403,332
Roanoke	W4ML	1,841,286
Southeastern	KT4TX	2,556,444
West Gulf	K5WPN	153,792
Multioperator, Multitransmitter		
Atlantic	K3LR	15,571,080
Central	WØAIH	3,290,805
New England	WK1Q	8,366,295
PAC	N6ZZ	3,890,025
Roanoke	W4RM	6,636,942

Atlantic Division

By Chas Fulp, K3WW

Once again Atlantic Division participants were quite successful!

Scores were up and participation was up, with 238 entries representing about 293 operators, making over 138 thousand QSOS and scoring over 143 Million points.

SOUHP remains the most popular category in the Atlantic Division with 70 entries. K3WW won the Division and the whole category again. This year Sig N3RS prevailed over Bud AA3B in another tight race for second, with Carol N2MM, Bill N3RR, Barry W3FV, Dave KN2M, Pat W3FIZ, John K3MD, and Dave N3RD all scoring above 2 million points.

Sig N3RS making a big SOUHP appearance while taking a break from M2.

The ever popular SO-LP category was next with 65 entries led by Ken KE3X who was also the overall winner, followed by last years winner Tom W2TF, then Bill KB3LIX and Josef KB3OK.

Ken KE3X the overall SO-LP winner with his son Kody, participated in several High Speed CW contests in Europe. Ken's three oldest sons are licensed Amateurs!

SOULP was next with 33 entries. Keith W3KB won the Division followed by Jamie WW3S, Bill N3WD, Chris W3CCC (K2CS) and Alan N3ALN.

The big-time SOHP class had 29 Atlantic Division entrants with Ray W2RE repeating as the division winner and the highest scoring US entrant. Fred K3ZO, Jon AA1K, Bob N2RM and Tom K3TC finished out the top group all with over 1 million point scores.

Ray, W2RE traveled to his beautiful remote location in NNY to make the top US SO-HP score.

Single band participation was down this year with a total of 16 entries.

10 meters was most popular with Steve W3BGN winning the division and overall. Steve lost many of his antennas in one of our big storms so chose to go with his best remaining antenna. Zee K2SSS and Victor N2PP had big efforts on 10 as well. Five operators entered on 20 meters with Bill WB3CII beating out Larry N2AMW for top spot in the division. Manny W2MF edged out Bob W3GH for the division 160 meter win as well as the overall 160 meter win. Frank N2HR represented the division on 40 meters and Ed K3ISH was the only 15 meter single band entrant for the division.

Multi-Multi participation was up with K3LR once again leading the division and everyone else. W3LPL followed with another huge effort. NE3F, W3DQ, NJ2BB, K3CT and K3RMB all braved the fierce competition as well.

Multi-Single HP produced only 6 entries this year with W3MF prevailing over W2FU in a tight race for the division win.

Multi-Single LP had 5 entrants with W3ZGD winning over W2TZ in another close finish.

Multi-2 also had 5 entrants with team WX3B at the K3HBX super station finishing first over K2AX, W2YC, WA3EKL and NJ3I.

This year two QRP entrants battled it out with Doug NA1DX winning in his first try at this event in 12 years, outlasting Dave KB3UCW.

Operating time is back in the statistical information. It appears that extended times with no QSOs are counted as off time, so the posted time spent by any station may appear to be somewhat less than it actually was. The totals show over 2800 station hours of operation (multi-op efforts would add quite a few man hours to this total). Atlantic Division stations averaged 53 QSOs per hour and over 49,000 points/hour. (including multi ops)

Cat	Entries	Points	QSOs	Hours	QSO/Hr	Pts/Hr
SOHP	29	18,848,892	20,141	382.9	53	49,233
SOLP	65	5,565,984	12,073	469.5	26	11,855
SOUHP	70	58,070,418	56,386	1,062.8	53	54,637
SOULP	33	4,984,641	8,184	244.5	33	20,391

It appears that the average rate for High Power operators is the same as the overall average for all stations, when including multiops. Unlimited, Low Power operators had better rates and better hourly point totals as well. The average entrant spent 11.7 hours on the air.

In EVERY category the station with the most calculated operating time was the winner. It is interesting that with the exception of the MSH class the winner also had the highest average QSO rate of all top level finishers. (A few folks had very high average rates for several hours of total operation)

Hours Operated	Entries
>40	4
30-40	16
24-30	12
20-24	18
10-20	55
5-10	54
<5	79

This year we were joined by Scott WN2IHJ and Gregory N2DYT who were participating in their first ever contest. Michael N2UJN entered his first HF contest and William KB3ZOZ made his first "real" attempt at contesting operation. It sounds like they all had a good time and will be back for more.

Scott WN2IHJ entered his first contest primarily using his TS2000 with an Astron 99 vertical.

Central Division

No writeup this year

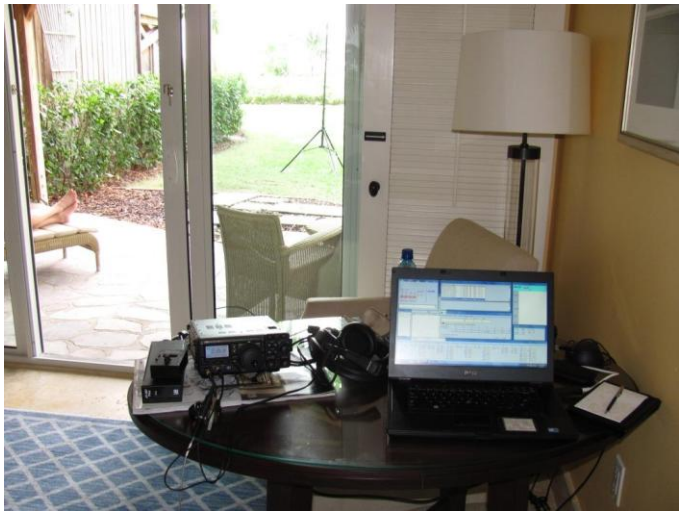
Dakota Division

By Bill Lippert, ACØW

Escape the snow

With a winter that seemed to go on and on (record snowfalls were received in April and May) several Dakota Division operators escaped to warmer climates to spend spent a little time handing out multipliers. Tom, KØYR, went to Maui to partner with Kent, KH6CJJ, for an M/S LP operation using Kent's call. (*They placed in the Top Ten, too! – Ed.*) The team of Scott, KØMD; Glenn, WØGJ; and Rich, NØHJZ; operated VP5H at the Hamlet of Jody, VP5JM. Matt, KØBBC, went to KP2 to operate from St. Thomas. Myself, I ended up in V4 on Nevis on a work related trip, managing to squeeze in time for the contest and having a blast while doing it.

While it is fun to be on the DX side of the pile-up there are also challenges. Matt noted that "sunrise would bring a bumper crop of Europeans" and Kent stated "in the morning, when the higher bands were open to NA, most of the NA stations were pointed towards Europe". My experience was similar; in the morning U.S. stations were primarily working Europe and would not hear me off the side of their antennas.



V4/ACØW station with antenna in background and XYLenjoying Caribbean weather (at least her feet) (Photo ACØW)

Despite the challenges, this group of Dxpeditioners provided incentive for the guys and gals back home to get on the air to find them and attempt a clean sweep for each station. Comments posted by MWA stations indicated they were looking for the four DXpeditioners; NØIJ "*Glad to work VP5H on 6 bands, V4/ACØW on his 3, KP2/KØBBC on the top 3 bands and KH6CJJ on 4 band*" and KBØEO "*It was fun running into the MN groups in V4, VP5, KP2 and KH6*". Hopefully this made up for what many reported as less than ideal conditions being experienced in the Dakota Division.

Despite the many comments in the Soapbox about poor conditions, the results show things were better this year than in 2012. Scores in most categories were up from the 2012 event. We also see a significant jump in Dakota Division stations making it into the Midwest Region Top Five box, a total of 9 in 2013 compared to 2 in 2012.

Results

This is the fourth year in a row to see Randy, NDØC, win the Dakota Division SOQRP category while also improving his score each year. This year his score improved 17% over his 2012 score. Helping Randy to finish amongst the leaders is a very low error rate of 0.2%. Randy is also the only Dakota Division station to make it into a US Top Ten box this year, where he finished at # 3 overall. Excellent finish from propagation challenged Minnesota for a QRP station.

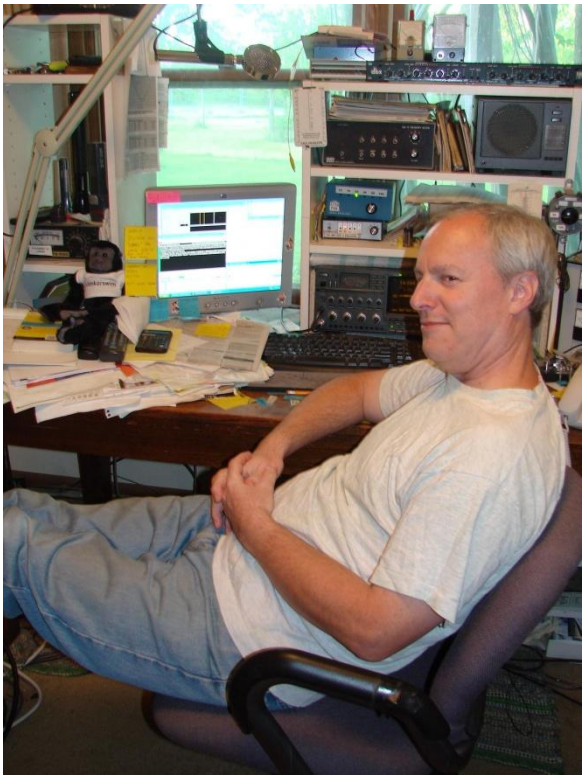
Taking the top spot of the eight South Dakota stations entering is Dave WBØTSR. Dave participated in SOLP category finishing first in the Dakota Division, and fourth in the Midwest Region. Dave repeated as the SOLP Dakota Division winner improving his score 25% over 2012 with an error rate of only 0.5%.

Taking the top spot in the SOHP category in the division is Al, KØCN. Al operated the whole contest using only a vertical on 80 and 40 and a 160 meter loop on all the other bands. Al's station is a good example of not needing superstation to win. All it takes is getting on the air, operating, turning in your score and you may be surprised. Al also finished fifth in the Midwest region with an error rate of only 0.9%.

Al, KØCN, winner of the Dakota Division SOAB-HP category at his station. (Photo KØCN)

Repeating in the Multi-single HP category is the team of Janet, KØJE, and Janice, KØJA, operating KØJE in Minnesota. They had a modest 1% increase in their score from 2012. In the Multi-single LP category, KFØQ finished first in the division and second in the Midwest Region. The operators were Dennis, KDØUJF, and Matt, KFØQ.

In an M2 effort that made the front page of the local newspaper, the *Watertown Public Opinion*; Joe and the team at KKØSD finished first in the division and third in the Midwest Region. Operators involved in the event were, KBØKBJ, KDØRHR, KDØTIH, KKØSD and N5DZX. Joe's objective was to allow more people to see ham radio and to allow newer hams a chance to operate, especially some hams who were new to HF. The antennas used were a tree-mounted Carolina Windom® 160™ multi-band antenna and a Hexbeam.



KØKX relaxing after the contest (Photo KØKX)

Repeating in the top spot of the SOUHP category is Mark, KØKX. Helping Mark achieve this result he had an error rate of only 0.6%. Mark also finished second in the region. In the SOULP category Greg, KØOB took the top spot and finished third in the Midwest Region. Greg's error rate was only 1%. Greg stated he "*really enjoys operating the DX contests assisted…. It is almost like playing a video game*."

Section winners includes Katherine, WDØBMR, SOU-LP in South Dakota; Jim, KDØS, SOU-HP in South Dakota; David, WDØBMS, SOAB-HP in South Dakota; Dave, WAØLJM, SOAB-LP in Minnesota, and the only North Dakota station turning in a log, Joe, N7IV, also SOAB-LP. Now you know why North Dakota was so hard to find that weekend.

Greg's, KØOB station with his many plaques in the background (Photo KØOB)

Wrap-up

Full details of the Dakota Division results are in the tables. A few things to note, first it doesn't take a super station to win the category in the division. If you noticed a few stations were using only wires. The other item to notice is the error rates. Most of the winners had error rates under 1%. So if you have hopes of winning the Dakota Division some day, one thing to work on is getting your error rates low.

Thanks for reading and hope to work you in the next contest.

73, Bill ACØW

Dakota Division Stations in Midwest Region Top Five Box

Call	*Category*	*Region Finish*	*Section*	*Score*
NDØC	SOQRP	2	MN	225,345
NØUR	SOQRP	5	MN	18,972
WBØTSR	SOLP	4	SD	218,022
KØCN	SOHP	5	MN	515,844
KØOB	SOULP	3	MN	169,641
KØMPH	SOULP	4	MN	166,608
KØKX	SOUHP	2	MN	1,170,723
KFØQ	MSL	2	MN	9,234
KKØSD	M2	3	SD	68,655

Dakota Division Winners

Call	*Category*	*Section*	*Score*
KØCN	SOHP	MN	515,844
WBØTSR	SOLP	SD	218,022
NDØC	SOQRP	MN	225,345
KØKX	SOUHP	MN	1,170,723
KØOB	SOULP	MN	169,641
KJØP	SOSB-15	MN	2,001
KØJE	MSH	MN	344,520
KFØQ	MSL	MN	9,234
KKØSD	M2	SD	68,655
WBØSOK	MM	MN	48,972

Section-Only Winners Dakota Division

Call	*Category*	*Section*	*Score*
WDØBMS	SOAB-HP	SD	123,372
WAØLJM	SOAB-LP	MN	65,520
N7IV	SOAB-LP	ND	52,725
KØTT	SOAB-LP	MN	109,434
KDØS	SOU-HP	SD	129,231

Delta Division

By Trent Fleming, N4DTF

The Delta Division was well represented in this year's ARRL DX Phone contest. Your humble author, whose main goal was to increase his 80m DXCC count, mustered a Single Band, Low Power entry that, while low, was good enough to win the division. Old Sol conspired against us, though, with solar activity that drove the A index well into the 20s the first night. Unlike recent years, however, thunderstorms were not a big issue in the middle of the country, so operators could slog through reduced band conditions instead of simply unplugging antennas.

In the SOQRP category, KS4X put in a strong effort, while Julius, N2WN held his own in the SOLP category. Julius also reported some interesting QRP contacts, including an I5 running 500 milliwatts! N5DX finished second overall in the SOHP category, first in the Southeast Region, with an impressive 4.2 millon points, and W5YH made a good showing in SOULP.

Kevin, N5DX reported disappointing conditions into Asia, other than a JT contact. His hoped-for 15m openings did not appear, but he did find 80 meters to be a bright spot, especially into Europe.

In the Single Operator, Single Band category, we got a look at how difficult conditions truly were from the Delta region. All Delta participants put up admirable numbers, attesting to their perseverance and operating skills, but in general Delta scores did not match up well to other regions. Of note was K4EJQ, who turned in a nice single band 160 score, a testimony to his diligence in sticking with Top Band in the face of difficult conditions.

Great Lakes Division

By Greg Surma, K8GL

"A lot of effort for not much score." Words of wisdom regarding the 2013 contest courtesy N8BJQ? Was this an accurate portrayal of conditions or a comment on a lack of activity? As they say on TV: "*We report. You decide.*"

How did the Great Lakes Division do during the contest? Many contestants had mixed feelings. KB8U opined that conditions were good. Russ lauded the 500-milliwatt Europeans that made it into his log. KJ8O called it his "*...best effort yet.*" N4YHC was happy with the results of his first big contest from the new QTH. Others were of the feeling that conditions were much better during the CW weekend.

Regardless, it was readily apparent that Great Lakes participants had much to celebrate, based on activity levels and results. 159 stations in the district managed over 46,000 contacts during the 48-hour fracas. That is a lot of talking! 56 of these stations scored over 100,000 points, and indication of a lot of effort and, at minimum, adequate conditions. Bouquets to the following stations for having the lowest error rate in the three-state area: N8DE, NA8V, N8MSA, K8AZ. N8BJQ, N8VV, W8PT, W8TM, K8YM, W8KEN, KB8U, NE8P and K8MEG. A lot of familiar calls here!

NA8V QTH

Geographically speaking…..

Once again Ohio led the division with 90 entries submitted. Anchoring the state was the M2 5+ Million point effort of the K8AZ super-station. Tom and crew spent much of the 2012 summer rebuilding the antenna system, and their results indicate it was a success. N8BJQ and N8TR led the state in single op efforts.

W8MJ led Michigan with his fine 2.19 Meg SOUHP score. In his typical manner Ken piloted his modest station with a lot of attention to making each second count. It is no coincidence that he historically has won the state in that category.

In the SOLP category NA8V dominated the division and placed #3 US/VE with his fine effort. Greg is an old hand at putting a competitive station together, having contested in the 60s, 70s and 80s under his old WA8TBQ call. It is interesting to note that he managed to work a half dozen Europeans on 160 meters during his 100 watt effort in this era of poor low band propagation. NA8V has bigger and better antenna plans for the future. The theme that Greg amplifies on is to spend the maximum time in the chair and paying attention to correct logging.

Once again KT8K demonstrates what can be done with a simple antenna system while operating QRP. Tim worked wonders with his highly educated wires to win the division and end up with the #6 US/VE score.

KE4KY and W4HK piloted KY4KY to the top KY score with their fine effort. AC4YD had the highest single operator score in the state despite being in the low power category.

WA8RCN Antenna farm

Random Notes

KT8D proudly proclaims his affinity for tube-type Collins gear after leading the division and scoring #8 US/VE on 80 meters.

KD8SNS had fun in his first SSB contest.

N8DE hopes for monobanders in the near future.

KG9Z found the bands very noisy but had fun.

KB8KE chimes in with the comment that the band conditions were great.

K4WW felt like he was the only KY station on, as he not only got several requests for other-band contacts, but also a lot of "*Thanks for the mult*" responses as well.

NF8J was disappointed with some of the audio quality heard during the contest.

NA8V felt that raising his TH6 by 20 feet made all the difference in the world.

WA8RCN had fun as a 15 meter single band entrant, an entry good enough for the #10 US/VE score.

2014 anyone?

Whatever your particular memories of the 2013 contest, now is the time to plan for next March. Solar activity should be peaking, leading towards some incredible high band conditions. A few more radials might also help your low band score. See you in the pileups!

Hudson Division

By Ken Boasi, N2ZN

With the 2013 contest season behind us, it is always nice to look back on what was, and dream of what could have been. With March's ARRL DX SSB contest, it now looks like the contest could have been incredible; good conditions on 20 and 15 meters, but 10 meters did not live up to expectations; good lowband conditions on the second night, but not the first. There's always next year, but some great shows were put on this year!

Within the Hudson Division, the upward trend in log submission took a hit this year; only 89 logs were submitted this year, compared with 122 logs in 2012, 113 logs in 2011, 104 in 2010 and 97 in 2009. One of the disadvantages of the ARRL DX SSB is that it comes near the end of contest season; could there have been some

burnout among some of the usual participants? Maybe WRTC fever?

Top Ten Finishes

This year, as in past years, the Hudson Division is home to a number of Top Ten USA/VE finishers in various categories. Bob, WA2JQK was #1 in the division in Single-Op, Low Power with 650,025 points; this was good enough to get Bob into the top 10 at #7. John, W2ID, entering the Single-Op QRP category again this year, posted 130k to finish #1 division-wide, while planing 7th overall. In the Single Op, Single Band-20 category, Craig, WR2G, worked over 500 QSOs on the band, with 89 countries, to place #1 in the division, and #3 overall.

In the Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power category, Tom, KA2D, finished #1 in the division (and a new 2-land record) and also finished #7 overall. Gerry, W1GD, a perennial entrant in the Single-Op Unlimited, High Power category, won another division plaque this year, with 2.8 million points, and also finished #5 overall.

Zev, N2WKS, also made the Top 10 in SOUHP with 2.3 million points, landing him at #10 overall. Here's a bit more from Zev about his operation: "*Personal best score by about 200q (previous record was 2011: 1697 x 390 =1,971,450 (final). My goal was to beat my 2011 score and have a solid 2meg. I worked really hard to keep the rate up above where I was in 2011 each hour and it paid off. Conditions seemed mixed and I was not able to get much of a run going on 10, or 80 which meant I was spending more time DXing and I ended up with 18 6 banders. Nothing broke and no operator errors; I even took a short nap before the contest. My voice held up and I didn't really use the DVK very much. As usual, I started the contest at about 00:13z and operated straight through. Enjoyed my brief chats with Alan (V26M), Bob (WP2XX), Peter (W2IRT), Tony (KP2M), and KE2VB on Tortola during the contest....even heard my dad in one of the pileups. Jay (K2TTT) was a great host and kept the coffee mug full-Thanks Jay! Thank you to all the stations that called in and the DX that keeps it interesting."*

All of these guys have been operating in these categories for the last several years, and their commitment to these categories is paying off in the form of plaques and Top 10 finishes!

#1 Overall Finishes

As in past years, the Hudson Division is home to at least one #1 USA finish and this year it is in the Multi-2 category, as the N2NT team was #1 overall M2, outdistancing their nearest competitors by nearly 1.5 million points. Congratulations to N2NT, W2GD, WW2Y, and KU2C for a job well done. Here's a bit of insight into what it takes to win, from N2NT himself: "*We had fun and blew up lots of equipment! Thanks to the crew for coming; M/2 is more fun than single op because I can sleep (if only for a couple of hours)."*

Division Winners

Elsewhere in the division, some more excellent work was done by our division plaque winners. Many others within the division earned a plaque as well as those listed above as national winners. In the Single Band categories, WB2AMU (10 meters), K2MFY (15 meters), WR2G (20 meters), and K4BNC (40 meters) all won plaques for their Number 1 Division finishes. Unfortunately, there were no entrants on 80 or 160 meters single band this year!

In the multiop categories, AB2DE and KC2AVE drove the AB2DE station to a #1 finish in the Multi-Single, High Power category, while a long list of operators put WC2FD on the air for a #1 finish in the Multi-Single, Low Power category.

As previously mentioned, the group at N2NT won #1 USA and #1 Hudson Division honors; they were followed (division wide) by the group at Columbia University, W2AEE.

As in previous years, there were no entrants in the Multi-Multi category this year for the Hudson Division. One of these years, an entry will show up, but for this year, this category remains silent again.

Section Level Honors

Going down to the section level, it is always good to see some new faces among the certificate winners. In the NLI section, Rich, K2BBQ was #1 Single-Op High Power, while Carl, K2TZY, was #1 Single-Op, Low Power. Both guys represented the Great South Bay ARC this year-very impressive results!

Single-Op Unlimited, High Power was won by Phil, N2MUN, closely followed by Ted, K2QMF, both representing the Order of Boiled Owls. Tom, KA2D, was #1 in Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power, with a new 2nd district record and division win; he was followed by fellow Owl, N2FF, who commented, "*Spent 16 hours total. Conditions were much better than I expected. Sunday and 15 meters were tops. Loads of activity on 10 meters on Sunday made for many QSOs on that band."* W2AEE was the lone multiop entry, entering the M2 category from the Columbia University ARC. A bit more from the W2AEE crew: "*Used our G5RV and*

Hygain Explorer 14 antennas. Radios were Yaesu FT-707 and Kenwood TS-450S."

The ENY section had some familiar calls battling each other for the Single-Op, High Power award; in the end, Bob, W2XL was able to pull out a win over Dave, KM2O. Single-Op, Low Power Top Ten finisher Bob, WA2JQK had another impressive finish, while Scott, W2NTV came in second.

Hank, KF2O, only a few miles north of the NLI section in New Rochelle was #1 in the Single-Op Unlimited, High Power category, with 1.5 million points. He was closely followed by Dave, W2GDJ with 1.3 meg, Ken, N2SQW with 1.1 million, and Will, WC2L, with 1 million points. This was a well represented category in ENY-many familiar calls such as K2ONP, K2CYE, N1EU, WA3AFS, K2EP, WA2MCR, NJ1F, and NA2M all entered SOUJP in ENY. No multiops this year in ENY?

Looking at NNJ, in addition to the great scores provided by N2NT, W1GD, WR2G, W2ID, K4BNC and N2WKS, there were some nice efforts that won section level awards as well. David, W2DZ, won Single-Op, Low Power with 232k, followed by KX2S at 151k. N2RJ won Single-Op, High Power with 1.6 million. In Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power, WB2IDV had 89k to top the NNJ section.

Club Competition

Since the Hudson Division is a place where many club circles cross, it is only natural to want to see what club placed where. In Unlimited Club category, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club beat the Frankford Radio Club by about 40 million points; YCCC's final score was over 280 million, with 214 entrants! They certainly know how to rally the troops. With only 150 entries, FRC did a good job and was #2 overall in the club competition with 240 million points. On average, the FRC did have higher points per submitted log (1.6 million per submitted log vs. YCCC's 1.3 million per submitted log), but the number of YCCC entrants were simply too much for FRC to overcome.

In the Medium Club category, the Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers were #2 overall, while the Order of Boiled Owls were #13 overall. In the Local category, the Bergen ARA was #7 overall; the Local Club category also had showings from the Great South Bay ARC, QSY Society, and the10-70 Repeater Association.

Accuracy Counts

A subject not often talked about too much, but which is very important to contest success, is the idea of error rate; that is, how accurate are you? It is known that the very best operators can maintain high rates and still maintain a low error rate. Of course, everyone wants to keep as many QSOs in the log as possible, but not everyone can always do that. Therefore, it is a special acknowledgement of the following stations that had 1% or less error rate:

K2XA, KB2SSZ, KC2TVJ, KD2BFI, KG2AF, NA2NY, K2BBQ, KC2MBV, N9YNG, W2LK, KS2G, W2LE, W2ID, K2EP, N2MUN, KA2D, N2FF, W2XL, KC2LST, W1GD, WA3AFS, WT4Q, N2WKS, N1EU, W2IRT, KM2O, AB2DE, NA2M, W2SZ (W1MAT, op), N2UN.

That's all for this year...see you in 2014 (hopefully from someplace warm)!

Midwest Division

No writeup this year

New England Division

By Dick Green, WC1M

New England: It's all about EU, EU, EU…

Conditions were decidedly better in 2013 than in 2012, with scores of New England category leaders increasing 30%-48%.

Still, 10 meters didn't open like we've come to expect at the peak of a sunspot cycle, and no New England station was able to work 100 countries on the band. Nonetheless, decent morning runs were had on 10 meters, especially Sunday, and many New Englanders worked hundreds of stations on the band.

15 meters was the money band in New England, accounting for at least one-third of all QSOs for category leaders, and producing country counts well over 100 in all but one of the high-power categories. Three stations worked over 119 countries on the band.

20 meters wasn't too far behind 15 meters, accounting for 25%-30% of all QSOs by New England category leaders, and offering up country counts similar to 15 meters. Four high-power stations worked over 118 countries on the band.

As we would expect at this point in the sunspot cycle, and especially in a phone contest, 40 meters was pretty tough going for New England stations, with most working fewer than 15% of their QSOs on 40 meters, and no station working 100 countries on the band.

Also as would be expected, running on 80 meters and 160 meters was challenging and didn't add much to QSO totals. But that didn't stop most category leaders from digging out 50-100 extra mults from the low bands.

All in all, the 185 New England stations submitting logs this year acquitted themselves well, with Top Ten finishes in 13 of 15 categories. Nice going!

Single-Op, High Power

K9PW, operating at NC1I, led 18 entries from New England and broke into the W/VE Top Ten with a big increase over his 2012 score – almost a million points higher. K1ZR almost caught him, ending up in the W/VE Top Ten as well.

Single Op, Low Power

Ed, N1UR, won W/VE for the fifth year in a row, and his seventh victory in the last eight years, beating his personal best record of 2011 and setting a new low power record for New England. Ed proved that he owns this category, winning with a margin of well over one million points. But N1PGA can't feel too bad because he took second place in the W/VE Top Ten! SOLP had 57 entries from New England, the most of any category this year.

Single Op, QRP

N1TM won W/VW, logging a huge 47% increase over his third-place score in 2012.

Multi-Single, High Power

This category produced a real dogfight between station K1LZ, winner of this category four years running, and a small group of contesters activating the legendary W2PV call sign at WW1WW, aka, "The Battleship" (so-named by KØDQ, who blasted everyone from her decks in the CW contest.) All through Saturday the battle raged back and forth, with both groups fighting conditions to put up big numbers on all bands. But by late Sunday morning, as conditions improved, the ops at W2PV (K1DG, K5ZD, KM3T and WC1M) sailed passed the ops at K1LZ (K1LZ, K1VR, W1UE, AE2W, K3JO, N8BO, and 9A6XX) and took first place in W/VE. Revenge was had later in the month in another major contest, but that's another story!

Multi-Single, Low Power

N1BA, who didn't compete in this category last year, took the #2 spot in W/VE this year.

Multi-Multi

WK1Q, K1KI and K1KP finished in the W/VE Top Ten, with WK1Q leading the NE pack to grab the #3 spot. That's really good in a category dominated by some of the biggest stations in contesting.

Single-Op Unlimited, High Power

With 50 entries, this was the second most popular category in New England, right behind SOLP. We didn't have any Top Ten finishers, but we had six stations putting up million-plus scores: K1HI, AB1OC, W1CTN, K1JB, AA1V and NY1X.

Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power

W1NT won W/VE this year, more than doubling his 8th-place 2012 score. We also had Top Ten finishes from K1BX, W1KT and WX1S.

Single-Op, Single Band Entries

New England had W/VE Top Ten finishes by W3EP and K1VSJ on 10 meters, W1AVK on 20 meters, W1FQ on 40 meters, W1XX on 80 meters and by KM1R and K1HAP gutting it out on 160m.

Northwestern Division

By Scott Tuthill, K7ZO

After authoring the Northwestern Division summaries in 2011 and 2012 Ward, NØAX, naturally asked me to do it again this year. Though I was actually in Nicaragua for the contest, operating as YN5Z, I figured I could put something together. So, here goes.

(As a note to the readers remember that KL7 is part of the ARRL Northwestern Division. I do know that for the ARRL DX contests stations in KL7 are actually considered DX and thus their scoring is based on a set of multipliers completely different than the rest of the division. It is not accurate to directly compare scores in KL7 to other Northwestern Division stations outside of KL7 but for purposes of this article I have lumped all scores together.)

Participation

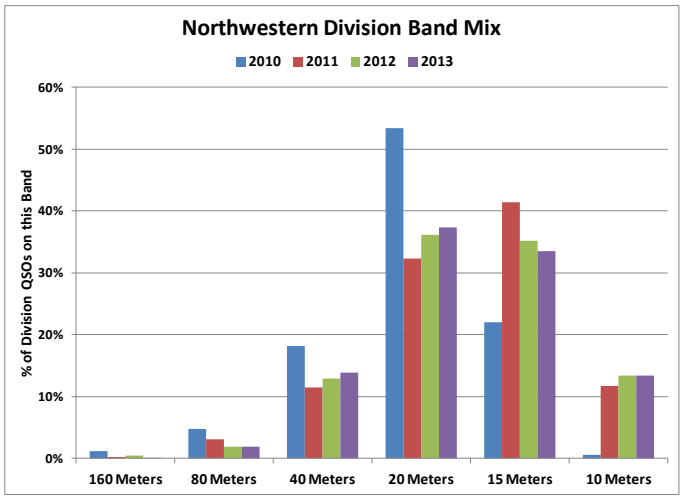
Participation this year in the Northwestern Division was down rather sharply from 2012 with an overall 23% reduction in submitted logs. I am not sure what was behind this but something must have been going on that offered a distraction from Amateur Radio that weekend. In 2013 a total of 96 Northwestern Division hams submitted logs for ARRL DX Phone whereas last year the total was 125. Notable was Montana which was able to maintain their 2012 total with 8 logs from that rare multiplier. On the other hand Idaho with a 47% reduction and Alaska with a 38% reduction from 2012 represented sections with the biggest drops. Western Washington continues to be the most active section in the division for the third year in a row. As long as the Puyallup Mike & Key ARC Electronics Show is not the same weekend as ARRL DX Phone the WWA members get out in force.

Section Activity

Logs	*AK*	*EWA*	*ID*	*MT*	*OR*	*WWA*	*Total*
2013	5	17	8	8	23	35	96
2012	8	20	15	8	27	47	125
2011	10	18	12	10	33	36	119
2010	7	14	12	10	33	23	99
% change 2012 to 2013	-38%	-15%	-47%	0%	-15%	-26%	-23%

Band Activity and Soapbox

You remember back to 2011? That was the year the high bands returned after the extended absence during the last solar minimum. In 2011, 53% of QSOs in Northwestern Division logs came from the 10 and 15 meter bands, up from 23% in 2010. Propagation and band activity in the Northwestern Division in 2013 and 2012 have been very similar to that in 2011. In 2013 the traditional high bands of 10 to 20 meters generated 84% of our QSOs, essentially the same as in 2011 and 2012.



Looking more closely, in 2013 our % of QSOs on 10 meters was exactly the same as 2012. We saw a bit of a dip in 15 meters and a bit of an increase in 20 meters. From this standpoint conditions were very similar to the last two years. But does this mean that 2013 was just like 2012? Apparently not.

What did see a big change in 2013 was the total number of QSOs in the submitted logs and the average log size. Northwestern Division logs contained 21,519 QSOs, down 48% from 2012. Even accounting for the 23% decrease in logs submitted this means the average division log size decreased almost 33% from 2012 to around 224 QSOs. It is not obvious what caused this drop.

One factor is several of the division's perennial big guns did not submit logs, and that certainly would drive down our total QSOs and average log size. For instance, K7RL, N9RV, K7ZSD, NK7U, KL7RA, AL1G, and K7ZS did not submit logs this year. In fact, of the 10 Northwestern Division stations in 2012 that made more than 1,000 QSOs, only one submitted a log in 2013 -- KG7H. And, of the stations on the air in 2013 none were able to crack the 1,000 QSO barrier. And, no one managed a single band DXCC after three stations pulled it off on 20 meters last year.

The Soapbox from division operators suggested conditions were not idea:

AD7UP - Hope the bands continue to improve.

K7ABV -- bands not all that good

KA6BIM/7 -- POOR CONDITIONS ON 10, 80 &160 BUT 15-40 WERE GREAT!

KD7VIK -- Conditions improved on Sunday, 10-meters opened to the south

KI7M -- one JA on 10 mtrs!

KX7L -- Conditions should have been OK, but it seemed to be a struggle, especially above 14 MHz

K2PO -- In the CW test 2 weeks ago, we had a 78 QSO first hour. In this weekend's SSB test, we managed 15 QSOs. Not a promising start.

AL9A -- #@%&!^ propagation! This one really stunk!*

W7WA -- Frustrating yet fascinating to witness the varying level of polar disturbances this weekend. Even the normally reliable JA path disappeared at times.

Division Scoring

With the poor conditions and absence of many top operators from the Northwestern Division how did our scoring play out? And, how well did we do relative the rest of the W/VE Divisions? In other words, did we show folks how competitive we can be! Let's look at the division high scores in a few of the more popular categories and compare them to the top W/VE scores.

Division Scoring compared to W/VE Overall

Category	*Division 2012 Top Score*	*Division 2013 Top Score*	*Division % increase 2012 to 2013*	*W/VE Top Score % Increase 2012 to 2013*
SOAB-HP	2,966,301 (N9RV)	497,652 (WA7LT)	-83%	29%
SOAB-LP	815,298 (K9JF)	112,266 (N7VZU)	-86%	31%
SOU-HP	997,038 (KG7H)	680,394 (KG7H)	-32%	18%
MS-HP	1,229,256 (K7ZS)	167,076 (W7IWW)	-86%	64%
M2	2,646,900 (W7IV)	No Entry	N/A	55%

What is interesting is that in each of these categories the top W/VE score in 2013 increased from 2012 and in two of the cases by more than 50%! Clearly other parts of US/VE did not feel the effects of poor conditions like we did.

Meanwhile, out in our neck of the woods in every category our top score over 2012 decreased substantially and in three cases by more than 80%. Ouch! Part of this is that many of our bigger stations were off the air and/or did not submit logs. We will never know what might have happened if they turned in scores. However conditions were not as good for us as for others, that is for sure.

One other insight can be found by looking at all the division operators who operated both in 2012 and 2013 in the same category. We had 29 operators who did that and the median score dropped 18% from 2012 to 2013. This is probably the best representation of how overall conditions were in 2013 for us in the Northwestern Division. They were just plain "punky".

Even in these tough times though several operators made the best of it and increased their score over 2012, sometimes quite substantially. A shout out goes to the following operators and their score increase from 2012: AF7O - 314%, K7STO - 68%, KD7MSC - 96%, KG7P - 159%, KI7M - 618%, W7IJ - 281%, W7KNX - 129%, W7ZRC - 1696%, WA7DUH - 227%, and WA7LT - 235%.

Multioperator Results

Multioperator is never a large category in the Northwest. Though we certainly have the space out in this neck of the woods to put up big stations it is often hard to assemble enough operators to pull off a well-staffed operation. This year reported participation matched last year with five multioperator logs submitted and all were Multi-Single. The division usually manages a couple M2 or even an occasional MM, but not this year. W7IWW came out on top of the four MSH operations. KL7AIR a MSH from Alaska made more QSOs than W7IWW though their score was lower because of the different scoring model they have.

Top region multioperator honors though goes to K2PO who, though the only MSL entry from the division, did well enough to place 4th in US/VE! They also set a new division record! Well, they actually were the first ever MSL entry from the Northwestern Division so setting a records was pretty easy. Still it was a great operation and they came second closest to a single band DXCC as any division operation with their 89 multipliers on 15 meters.

Multioperator Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
W7IWW	167,076	322	182	MSH	MT
KL7AIR	157,920	562	94	MSH	KL7
W7DK	52,143	194	91	MSH	WWA
K7NWS	3,150	38	30	MSH	WWA
K2PO - **4th Place US/VE! New Division Record!**	833,490	951	294	MSL	OR

Single-Operator High Power Results

After the division SOHP battle royal in 2012 between heavyweights K7RL and N9RV they did not turn in logs in 2013. (N9RV was actually back at K3LR as part of the MM team). The dust settled, and it gave other deserving operators a chance to rise up. Coming out on top was WA7LT who shifted from SOSB-15 in 2012 to SOHP in 2013. Second place in the division goes to KZ1W who put up a good fight but came up short. WA7LT's five more hours on the air probably made the difference. At some point the old metric of "butt in chair hours" does make a difference.

SOHP Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
WA7LT	497,652	754	226	SOHP	EWA
KZ1W	379,665	671	195	SOHP	WWA
W6AEA	245,016	502	164	SOHP	EWA
K7ABV	224,208	435	173	SOHP	MT
KD7MSC	155,400	357	148	SOHP	OR

Single-Operator Low Power Results

SOLP is the Division's most popular category with 27 total entries. Coming out on top this year was N7VZU. In tough conditions Michael managed to match his 2012 score and that was good enough to hold off N7VJ. Special mention goes to AF7O who was the only SOLP operation who more than doubled their score over 2012.

SOLP Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
N7VZU	112,266	298	126	SOLP	EWA
N7VJ	73,800	208	120	SOLP	ID
W8BFX	60,990	216	95	SOLP	WWA
WAØWWW	55,566	194	98	SOLP	EWA
W7QN	44,370	179	85	SOLP	WWA

Single-Operator QRP Results

We had only one SOQRP entry this year vs. three last year. KK7VL took division honors.

SOQRP Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
KK7VL	1254	23	19	SOQRP	EWA

Single-Operator Unlimited Results

This is third year now with this category having both high and low power versions. It is an increasingly popular one in the division with 30 total entries in 2013, up one from 2012. This is notable given the overall reduction in submitted logs from 2012 that the Unlimited categories increased.

KG7H came out on top of the High Power Unlimited entrants for the second year in a row and again was Idaho's only section win. He narrowly held off our own division director K9JF who stepped up from his division winning low power operation in 2012 to his more comfortable high power operation this year. In the end it looks like KG7H's more time on the air and more low band multipliers made the difference. K9JF actually had more QSOs.

N7FLT came out on top on the Low Power Unlimited entrants in the closest 1-2 finish of any division category. Falling just short, by less than 4%, in second place was WA7DUH. The story behind the finish is a good case study and example of logging accuracy. WA7DUH actually had a higher raw and claimed score but lost 4 multipliers in the log checking process. This caused his score to be reduced 4.2% whereas N7FLT's score was reduced by only 0.5%. This was enough to make a difference in the final results and N7FLT ended up in first place. Logging accuracy can and does make a difference!

SOUHP and SOULP Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
KG7H	680,394	801	286	SOUHP	ID
K9JF	648,531	906	241	SOUHP	WWA
KA6BIM/7	587,859	851	233	SOUHP	OR
W7IJ	320,334	533	203	SOUHP	WWA
K7RF	273,159	460	201	SOUHP	OR
N7FLT	182,268	367	166	SOULP	MT
	Won category by better log accuracy!				
WA7DUH	175,680	321	183	SOULP	EWA
W7ZRC	112,518	284	133	SOULP	ID
KL2HD	30,240	226	45	SOULP	KL7
K9QJS	24,408	116	72	SOULP	WWA

Single-Operator, Single Band Results

These categories always attract a number of operators. Either they have a favorite band, they have limited operating time or they only have antennas for a band or two in the air. In 2013 there were 10 single band entrants in the division. The big news for 2013 was Dan W7WA's SOSB-40 effort. He not only placed first in the division but placed first overall W/VE for the second year in a row. Great job Dan with a category win for the division. Dan did slip up this year in logging accuracy. Unlike last year with a amazing golden log he did lose 4 QSOs out of his 866 claimed QSOs. However, his overall score reduction was still well under 1% and this is a standard we should strive to meet. And remember -- W7WA owns the all time W7 Single Band records on 15, 20, and 40 meters.

Also notable was K7MH's SOSB-20 effort that was good enough for 5th Place US/VE. Great job in one of the toughest categories. K7GS placed first in SOSB-15 and KD7ZLF in SOSB-10. We didn't have anyone report a score for SO-80 or SO-160.

Single Band Scoring

Call	*Score*	*QSO*	*Mults*	*Category*	*Section*
KD7ZLF	2,106	40	18	SOSB-10	OR
KG7WZ	486	19	9	SOSB-10	ID
K7GS	891	27	11	SOSB-15	EWA
K7MH	110,424	433	86	SOSB-20	WWA
	5th Place US/VE				
KB7QFE	16,995	105	55	SOSB-20	ID
W7WA	242,520	862	94	SOSB-40	WWA
	1st Place US/VE, 2nd year in a row!				
WA7AR (W7FP, op)	9,954	81	42	SOSB-40	OR

Logging Accuracy

The ARRL now reports an Error Rate % for each log submitted. This is the number of contacts that log checking found to be "bad" divided by the number of contacts with all duplicates removed. "Bad" contact means a NIL (not in log), BUST (bad call), or miscopied exchange. A perfect or "Golden" log would have a zero error rate. The overall average for the Division was about 3.0%, an increase from our 2.7% in 2012. As you review your personal results you can compare your Error Rate % to this average. If you are already lower than that, well done.

And, if you want to strive for true excellence these operators obtained the magic zero error rate in 2013 -- the number of QSOs they made is noted after their callsign. K7MHI(131), K7LOP(85), AB7LA(55), KL7NC(49), KJ9C(27), K7GS(27), AA7AG(25), K7HPT(24), K7BG(19), and K7AWB(12). See, it can be done. And, it can make a difference. Just ask N7FLT and WA7DUH.

2013 Summary and Looking ahead

Northwestern Division participation and scores were down in 2013 over 2012. Unlike the top W/VE scores we had across the board reduced scores in 2013 versus 2012. To some extent this was because some of our top stations were off the air but it also looks like we really did have poorer conditions than other parts of W/VE. However we still placed three scores in the W/VE Top 10. Two less than we did in 2012. We even had one overall W/VE category winner thanks to W7WA's SOSB-40 performance.

Hopefully high band conditions will remain for at least one more year and 2014 will be another strong year. Beyond that pretty much all forecasts show that the solar cycle will be in its decline. So, 2014 could be the last year for a long time for you to set your personal record, win the division, set a division record, or place in a Top 10 box. So, let's plan on getting out next year, recruit some more ops to contesting, and make a good showing.

Pacific Division

By Mark Schrieber, K6OWL

Relative to the past few years, participation in the Pacific Division plummeted this year for no obvious reason, despite the promise of but not necessarily the delivery of decent propagation (while opinions vary on this point the scores were definitely lower). There were 81 entries from the Pacific Division this year compared to 103 logs last year and 96 submissions in 2011. By contrast, there were 116 participants in 2010, a year in which apparent optimism over improved propagation peaked. After the contest, some Pacific Division participants charitably described the conditions as variable, describing eerie propagation shifts, short-lived high productivity runs leading to long periods of unanswered CQs, but an enjoyable experience for those who participated nonetheless.

For example, Bob K6XX, last year's Single Operator High Power winner in the Pacific Division who repeated the achievement this year with a much lower score, reported his best 15 meter first hour QSO total ever. According to Bob, "*It was fantastic for 15 minutes, and very good to 45 minutes. After an hour, it was all but gone.*"

Matt, WX5S, part of the N6ZZ team at N6RO, described conditions as "disturbed." He recounted barely hearing EU stations on 15 meters until 1.5 hours after their sunset when signal strengths increased 3-4 S units. "*What was impossible became easy for about 15+ minutes*." Dean, N6BV, who was also part of the N6ZZ team at N6RO, opined that "*it could have been Sporadic-E over the North Atlantic. The rapid increase in signal strength, the non-direct path and the short duration of the opening sure sounds like Sporadic-E to me. It's really fun when something like that occurs.*"

Club Competition Results

As usual, entries from members of the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) predominate in the Pacific Division. Twelve contestants during the phone weekend indicated they were members of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club, a twenty percent increase over last year. The Oakland Radio Communications Associated was represented single handedly this year by Tony KA6MIB.

On a combined basis (CW and Phone), NCCC members scored about 63 million points, a slight increase over last year and increased its standing by one notch to fourth place nationwide in the unlimited category. In the medium club category, the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club tallied 5.5 million points, nearly a twenty-percent increase over last year, to place twenty-third in its class.

The Winners

Despite describing this year's effort as "just for fun," Bob K6XX (operating from his Santa Cruz -mountain shack in the Santa Clara Valley Section) took top honors again in the Pacific Division single-operator high power category. Bob is one of the leading contesters in the

Pacific Division and is no stranger to the winner's circle or the top scorer boxes. In this year's effort, he clocked over twenty solo hours and completed more than 1,100 QSOs in his winning effort. He also placed third in the West Coast Region.

Alan K7ACZ of the Nevada Section also retained his crown in the single-op low power category, again the most popular category among this year's entries. He has placed in the top five consistently for many years. His score also received second place honors for the West Coast Region.

The Single Operator Unlimited High Power category was won by Steve W1SRD, operating from the Sacramento Valley section. Steve is a long-time contest participant and DXer who has also operated in contests around the globe.

The Single Operator Unlimited Low Power category was won by Frank N6OI, from the Santa Clara Valley section. Frank has a wide variety of interests in the amateur radio field and maintains a web site at **www.n6oi.com** describing his many activities.

N6ZZ was put on the air as a multi-multi operation at N6RO in memory of Phil Goetz. The team won category in the Pacific Division and West Coast Region on an uncontested basis. The operators were KØUK, K3EST, K6AW, N6BV, N6RO, and WX5S. Their score was also good for sixth place nationwide.

The operators at W6WB also faced no competition in the multi-two category as they repeated their Pacific Division and West Coast Region win from the East Bay Section. They also placed eighth nationwide. W6WB was the callsign of Clayton "Bud" Bane who was a well known contester and friend of many in the San Francisco Bay Area amateur radio community. The Wireless Contesters Club puts Bud's call sign on the air from time-to-time to celebrate his memory. A group of well-known hams (JK3GAD, GØCKV, OH1VR, AD6E, K6WG, KX7M, and W6NV) come together on an annual basis to participate in this contest.

K6MMM (operated by Rich KE1B and Anna W6NN) (aka the "Monkeys") from Santa Clara Valley was the Pacific Division's winner in the multi-single high-power category, also taking third place in the West Coast Region. W6PW, the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club Station (operated by KI6ODG, KJ6OGE, KJ6PTX, K6MLF, KI6NYQ, WN6WJN, KI6QHY, KC9DPP, and K6UFO), from the San Francisco section, won the multi-single low-power category and placed second in the West Coast Region.

Among the single band operators, the following participants led their categories: Dan W7DR (ten meters) from the Sacramento Valley Section (also first place in the West Coast Region), Tim NU6S (fifteen meters) from the Santa Clara Valley (also second place in the West Coast Region and fourth place nationwide), Ken K6HNZ (twenty meters) in Santa Clara Valley (also first place in the West Coast Region and fourth place nationwide), and Richard W6RKC (forty meters) again repeated in this class from Sacramento Valley (also fifth place in the West Coast Region).

Single Operator, High Power

As noted at the start of this report, Bob K6XX in the Santa Clara Valley Section once again took top honors in the Pacific Division, far outdistancing the crowd with 813,564 points (1,124 Qs and 243 multipliers). Jim K6JAT, from the East Bay Section, came in second with 377 Qs and 164 multipliers for a score of 180,564 points. Bill W6FA, reporting from the Sacramento Valley Section, came in third with 335 Qs, 144 multipliers and a score of 141,696 points. N6NF (100,149), K6LRN (94,875), KG6AO (66,963), K6ATZ (54,405), WØHJW (20,235), N6XI (10,296), and W6SX (8,742) rounded out the Pacific Division's top ten list in the SOAB-HP category.

Single Operator, Low Power

The top three contestants in this category from last year's contest also finished in the top three this year. Alan K7ACZ from the Nevada Section repeated his Pacific Division win with a score of 283,500 (452 Qs and 210 multipliers). Past winner Shirl AA6K from the San Joaquin Valley Section advanced from third to second this year with 379 Qs, 177 multipliers, and a score of 199,125. Don K6GHA from Santa Clara Valley came in third with 356 Qs and 139 multipliers for a score of 146,367. The remainder of the top ten of the SOAB-LP class consisted of N7UR (105,726), KC7DB (90,300), N6ORB (82,998), W6RFF (69,264), ND6S (63,838), KA6MIB (29,799), and K6CS (13,167)

Single Operator, Single Band

Just seven single band entries were submitted from the Pacific Division this year. Two of these entries appeared in the nationwide top ten boxes this year.

On ten meters, the winning entry was submitted on paper from Dan W7DR from the Sacramento Valley Section (23,364 points, 177 Qs, and 44 multipliers) which also topped the West Coast Region results. The runner-up in the category was from Charles W6DPD in the San

Joaquin Valley Section (7,719 points, 84 Qs, and 31 multipliers) who placed fourth in the West Coast Region.

There were three entries on fifteen meters, Tim NU6S (182,016 points, 634 Qs, and 96 multipliers) of Santa Clara Valley, John K7XE (36,672 points, 194 Qs, and 64 multipliers) from the Sacramento Valley Section, Bart K6VK operating W6CF, the California Historical Radio Club Station (27 points, 3 Qs, and 3 multipliers) from the East Bay Section. Tim's score was also good for fourth place nationwide.

There were two entries on twenty meters this year. Ken K6HNZ, of the Santa Clara Valley Section, again won the SOSB-20 category and place fourth nationwide, reporting 472 Qs, 86 multipliers, and a score of 120,486. Runner-up was Radu AG6RX of the Santa Clara Valley Section with a score of 96 composed of 8 Qs and 4 multipliers.

The Pacific Division's lone forty meter single band entry this year was Richard W6RKC who completed 61 contacts from Sacramento Valley with 30 multipliers for a score of 5,490.

There were no single band entries this year for 80 or 160 meters.

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

Steve W1SRD from Sacramento Valley (601,128 points, 796 Qs,and 253 multipliers) led the SOUHP category this year. Last year's winner, Norm N6JV, also from Sacramento Valley took second place (549,349 points, 791 Qs, and 243 multipliers). Tom K5RC, operating W7RN, the Comstock Memorial Station, placed third (214,080 points, 452 Qs and 160 multipliers). K2RD (173,502), K6RC (125,568), N6KJ (100,536), K7LV (55,332), W1RH (51,450), N2NS (23,370), and K6ELE (19,624) rounded out the top ten among the Pacific Division single operator high power packet users.

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

Frank N6OI, from the Santa Clara Valley section, won the SOU-LP category with a score of 45,318 (176 Qs and 91 multipliers). Mark W6MSB from the Santa Clara Valley Section took second place with 100 Qs, 65 multipliers, and a score of 19,500. The third place winner in this category was Carl AF6GQ from Santa Clara Valley Section, who submitted a log with a score of 15,288 (100 Qs, and 65 multipliers). The remainder of the entries in this category consisted of W6SA (13,359), K6KYJ (6,201), and K6TIG (3,321).

Multioperator Entries

The Pacific Division fielded five multi-operator entries this year, about the same number as last year. Two of the entries appeared in the nationwide top ten boxes.

The sole multi-multi category entry came from N6RO which operated as N6ZZ in memory of Phil Goetz. This entry won the multi-multi category in the Pacific Division and West Coast Region as well as coming in sixth place nationwide. The team scored 3,890,025 points with 3,080 Qs and 425 multipliers. The operators were KØUK, K3EST, K6AW, N6BV, N6RO, and WX5S.

W6WB, from the East Bay Section, again won the multi-two category this year from the Sunol Ridge operated by the team of JK3GAD, GØCKV, OH1VR, AD6E, K6WG, KX7M, and W6NV. They completed 2,845 contacts and recorded 402 multipliers for a score of 3,403,332, which was also good for eighth place nationwide.

There were two relatively close entries in the multi-single high power category. K6MMM (operated by KE1B and W6NN) from the Santa Clara Valley topped the high power multi-single effort with a score of 249,390 (496 Qs and 170 multipliers). K6KO (operated by K6KO and K6TA) submitted a MS-HP entry with a score of 213,144 (333 Qs and 214 multipliers).

The San Francisco Radio Club submitted the only low power multi-single category entry this year. KI6ODG, KJ6OGE, KJ6PTX, K6MLF, KI6NYQ, WN6WJN, KI6QHY, KC9DPP, and K6UFO joined forces to put W6PW on the air, logging 40,515 points, 198 Qs, and 73 multipliers from the San Francisco Section. This score was also good for second place in the West Coast Region. The San Francisco Radio Club has reinvigorated its high frequency activities, particularly in the contesting realm, over the past few years.

Propagation

Overall, the bands showed significantly less productivity in the Pacific Division this year compared to last year. Ten meters dropped by almost half this year compared to last year (3,015 Qs and 1,142 multipliers this year compared with 6,542 Qs and 2,131 multipliers last year). The other bands were also less productive. Fifteen meters declined to 8,107 Qs from 9,836 Qs last year but with a far fewer multipliers, 2,300 compared to 3,079. Twenty meters also showed fewer Qs and multipliers (4,352 Qs this year compared to 5,491 Qs last year and 1,901 multipliers this year compared to 2,331 multipliers last year). The results on forty and eighty meters

remained at last year's levels which had declined markedly from 2011. Forty meters yielded 3,335 contacts and 926 multipliers this year compared with 3,334 contacts and 1,257 multipliers last year. Eighty meters produced only 486 Qs and 266 multipliers this year compared to 679 Qs and 374 multipliers last year. The activity this year on 160 meters was about the same as the last two years (54 contacts and 50 multipliers this year compared with 54 contacts and 48 multipliers last year and 56 contacts and 54 multipliers in 2011).

Error Rates

Eighteen logs were submitted with zero errors. These logs and the number of QSOs reported in them came from W7DR (144), W6MSB (100), N6XI (88), W6RKC (61), W6SIY (44), KI6CYT (35), K6III (30), NC6D (18), NJ6W (16), KJ6DID (15), N6DZR (14), N6MW (12), AF6PZ (11), AG6RX (8), KF7PXT (7), WQ6X (6), NBØO (3), W6CF (3), and KE6IUE (1).

Eight logs were submitted with an error rate of one percent or less: NU6S (0.3%, 634 Qs), K6KO (0.6%, 333 Qs), K2RD (0.6%, 308 Qs), K7ACZ (0.7%, 452 Qs), N6ORB (0.8%, 262 Qs), W1SRD (0.9%, 796 Qs), KG6AO (0.9%, 223 Qs), and AA6K (1.0%, 379 Qs).

There were nineteen logs with error rates in the range of 1.1-1.9% and nine error rates in the range of 2.0-2.9%.

Roanoke Division

By Ryan Cairnes, K3XC

The W4RM team, comprised of N3AHA, K4UVA, NO4N, W4MFM, W4NF, K5OF, and W7IY, put on a great show, with a multi-multi score of 6,636,942. Perennial contester N4ZC followed closely with a SOUHP score of 2,396,163. The NR4M team, operated by WØCN, K3UI, KA4RRU, NW4V, and WA4PGM, operated MSL and came away with a respectable score of 2,256,384 and a new all-time record for the category! W4MYA and KI4UDF operated as W4ML and also put a good score on the board – 1,841,286.

KK9A operated as W4AAA and cleanly broke with 2,000 QSO barrier, with a SOSB-20 score of 801,288. KU4V and AA4R had almost the same exact scores – 758,430 and 745,308, and operated as SOHP and SOULP, respectively.

K4MDR almost broke the 500k mark with a score of 478,956 as SOLP. N8II had fun as SOSB-10 and came away with a cool 784 QSO's and a score of 204,363. K3ZJ put in some chair time and scored 94,464 as SOSB-40. WX4G also put in chair time and worked 67 mults to come away with 44,622 as SOSB-80. N4ZAK almost broke 100 mults and scored 35,880 as SOQRP. W1LZ and WB1CZX both turned their rigs on and scored 1,140, and 396 as SOHP and SOSB-15, respectively.

Rocky Mountain Division

By Dan Norman, NØHF
President GMCC

Sunspots…..please help us!

The 2013 ARRL DX Phone contest had a decent turnout this year with four entrants whose scores made it into the top 10 USA brackets! See below for details.

With conditions varying throughout the weekend, many RM Division contesters held to the bands and did very well from our inland location.

Rocky Mountain Division Top Ten USA

Call	*Category*	*Finish*	*Section*	*Score*
KØRF	MSHP	4	CO	3,563,802
N2IC	MSHP	7	NM	3,027,156
NØKE	SOQRP	2	CO	239,220
WD5COV	SO160	6	NM	867

Rocky Mountain Division Category Winners

Call	*Category*	*Section*	*Score*
NØKE	SOQRP	CO	239,220
WØETT	SOLP	CO	203,988
K7KU (KØKR op)	SOHP	WY	897,444
W7CT	SOUHP	UT	71,484
KIØJ	SOULP	CO	137,712
K7ULS	SO10	UT	1,566
KØRF	MSHP	CO	3,563,802

Section-Only Rocky Mountain Division Winners

Call	*Category*	*Section*	*Score*
KØRF	MSHP	CO	3,563,802
N2IC	MSHP	NM	3,027,156
WF4U	SOHP	UT	160,272
K7KU (KØKR op)	SOHP	WY	897,444

Category winners

Single Op, HP

The winner is Bob Neece KØKR operating K7KU in rural Fremont County (WY), followed by NCØB (CO) and KD5JAA (NM) – very good scores!

Single Op, LP

Ken, WØETT (Parker, CO) took first place within the RM Division with 203,988 points then KAØZPP in NM had 2nd place with almost 119k and 3rd goes to

KA7PNH in WY with 92k. The RM Division had 23 entrants in this category.

Single Op, QRP

Phil NØKE with an impressive station in Silt, CO does very well in this category and this time is no exception. #2 USA, #1 RM Division. Congratulations Phil! Dennis KKØQ (Westminster, CO) came in 2nd with 50.1k points. Great work guys!

Single Op, Single Band

160m – went to WD5COV in NM.

15m – N7DR (CO) taking the lead with 45.9k points.

10m - K7ULS (UT) from Powder mountain.

Single Op Unlimited, HP

The winners are both from UT, Jim W7CT with 71.4k and Robert WR7Q/65.6k.

Single Op Unlimited, LP

Al KIØJ of Westminster, CO took first with a total of 137k with Jim AD1C of Brighton, CO coming in at 113.5k points using an indoor half G5RV and a temp vertical.

Multi-single HP

This time it was a competition between KØRF and N2IC with Chuck's team of WØUA and K7NV pulling ahead by about 536k for a division win at 3.56M. That is #4 USA! Band totals for both stations are similar except for 20m where KØRF was ahead by 216 Q's and 12 mults. Steve N2IC takes #7 USA this time with N5FO as the only other operator who is back in the chair after a 35 year hiatus. Excellent scores to both of you. Wow. Third place goes to WC7WB of WY with 405.1K points with a crew of 3 ops.

Statistics

Entrants by ARRL section

CO	29
NM	12
UT	12
WY	5
ALL	58

Clubs	*Total points*	*Entries*
Grand Mesa Contesters of CO	9,732,741	19
Utah DX Association	4,343,868	19
Albuquerque DX Association	85,431	3
Pueblo West Amateur Radio club	87,003	4
New Mexico Big River contesters	24,633	1

I hereby give a big pat-on-the-back to all of you in RM Division, thanks for your efforts in this contest. It's great to be part of the contest community here and will be looking for your scores next time.

Southeastern Division

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E

Welcome to the 2013 southeastern regional report for the 2013 ARRL DX Phone contest. This report is for the Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern divisions. As usual there were many great efforts from the region and many stations that won or placed high in the W/VE top ten boxes.

Single-Op, High Power Top 5

N5DX	**4,201,245**
AD4Z	2,882,316
K1TO	2,721,420
K4AB	2,662,200
K4JPD (N4OO)	2,045,406

The top five stations in the region were all competitors competing for points to qualify for WRTC-2014. Kevin, N5DX had the highest score in the southeastern region with 4.2 million points. His score was also good enough to place #6 in W/VE in the SOHP category. Great job Kevin!

The next four stations were competing for qualifying points in the W4 East region for WRTC-2014. (AD4Z, K1TO, K4AB and K4JPD operated by N4OO) It was a close race but Julio, AD4Z, came out on top by a narrow margin to have the top score and get the maximum number of points for WRTC.

Single-Op, Low Power Top 5

WA1S	**599,238**
K4DMR	478,956
W4FT	386073
K4NC	328,440
NR3X	319,716

The top score in the SOAB Low Power category was by Ann, WA1S, from her new QTH in Sharpsburg, GA. Her score was also #10 in W/VE. Close behind was Doug, K4DMR, from South Carolina.

Single-Op, QRP Top 5

KS4X	**188,877**
NT4TS	179,550
N4ZAK	35,880
K3TW	22,176
KJ4FUU	3,219

The top score in the tough SOAB QRP category was by Ken, KS4X, from Signal Mountain in Tennessee. For those of you that haven't been to the southeast this location is in the Smokey Mountains overlooking Chattanooga, which I'm sure helped his QRP signal reach further. Laing, NT4TS, in Florida was only 9000 points behind Ken in the battle for the top QRP score in the region. These two gentlemen were also #4 and #5 in the QRP category in W/VE. Great job guys!

Single-Op Unlimited, High Power Top 5

N4ZC	**2,396,163**
W3OA	1,557,600
K5EK	1,539,648
W3GQ	1,383,084
W4TTY	1,379,268

Long time contester Roger, N4ZC, topped all the competitors in the Single-Op Unlimited, High Power category for the region. He was also #9 in the W/VE top ten box. There was a very close battle for the next four positions between W3OA, K5EK, W3GQ and W4TTY who were only separated by a couple hundred thousand points top to bottom.

Single-Op Unlimited, Low Power Top 5

WB4OMM	**1,119,492**
AA4R	745,308
KT4ZB	567,675
W4ZAO	363,771
K4FS	350,898

Steve, WB4OMM, in Florida topped all the competitors in the Unlimited Low Power category. Bill, AA4R and Jere, KT4ZB were just behind him in 2nd and 3rd place. WB4OMM was also #4 and AA4R #8 in the W/VE national standings.

Single Band 10 Meters

N8II	**204,363**
K4WI	108,570
NC2V	64,824
N4BP	49,707
KD5J	23,088

Jeff, N8II, in West Virginia had the top score in the region on 10 Meters. He was followed by Cort, K4WI, in Alabama who is a regular in the 10 Meter Single Band category. Jeff was #2 and Cort #7 in the W/VE national standings.

Single Band 15 Meters

N4PN	**527,904**
WD5R	175,152
KM4HI	59,625
W8LIG	11,739
KF5FGF	585

Paul, N4PN, in Georgia always places high in the single band categories. 2013 was no exception as he again won the 15 Meter Single Band category. His score was also #1 in the W/VE. Great job Paul!

Single Band 20 Meters

W4AAA (KK9A)	**801,288**
W4SVO	398,196
W4RRE	49,665
K4TRH	48,840
W4MPJ	24,960

On 20 meters Ken, KK9A, operated with his club call W4AAA for the top 20 Meter Single Band score in the region. We all know Ken from his call from Aruba P4ØA. He also had the #1 score in W/VE. Behind Ken was Mark, W4SVO, operating from his South Florida QTH. Mark was also #2 in W/VE on 20 meters. W4RRE and K4TRH also make the top ten W/VE box at #9 and #10. Congratulations, guys!

Single Band 40 Meters

K3ZJ	**94,464**
N3LL	30,132
W4JKC	18,954
W9LSD	4,176
W6CSA	630

On 40 meters Dave, K3ZJ, had the top score from the region from his QTH in Washington DC. His score was good for #2 in W/VE. Behind Dave was Bob, N3LL. His

score was #6 in the W/VE national standings. 3rd place finisher Tom, W4JKC, also made the W/VE top ten box at #10.

Single Band 80 Meters

WX4G	**44.622**
K1KNQ	25,926
K4KZZ	23,973
W4QNW	19,992
WA4TII	19,665

In the 80 Meter Single Band category Bob, WX4G, took the top spot from Virginia. The top five finishers in the region on this band also placed well nationally. WX4G - #2 W/VE , K1KNQ - #3 W/VE, K4KZZ - #4 W/VE, W4QNW - #5 W/VE and WA4TII - #6 W/VE. W4DD, who wasn't even in the top 5 box for the region also placed #7 in W/VE. The southeast USA was the place to be on 80 meters in 2013.

Single Band 160 Meters

AG4W	**1,872**
K4EJQ	630

160 meters is a tough band to do on SSB but Steve, AG4W, was rewarded with the top 160 Meter Single Band score from the region. His score was good for #2 in W/VE. 2nd place finisher K4EJQ was also #7 in the W/VE national standings.

Multi-Single High Power

N4WW	**3,928,344**
N4JDB	297,135
K5KG	121,195

The N4WW team from Florida (FCG members K0LUZ, N4KM, N4WW) was the #1 Multi Single High Power score from the region. Austin's team also placed #3 W/VE in this category.

Multi-Single Low Power

NR4M	**2,256,384**
N9CM	64,050
N7FF	3,960
WA4NZD	2,349

The NR4M team (K3UI, KA4RRU, NR4M, NW4V, WØCN, WA4PGM) decided to try something new this year by operating in the Multi Single Low Power category. They were rewarded with the #1 score in the region and in the W/VE national standings.

Multi 2

KT4TX	**2,556,444**
W4ML	1,841,286

In Multi-2 High Power KT4TX (KC4HW, KT4TX, N4KH, N4NM) took the top spot. This is the new call sign for Tim, KY5R/KP4BZ. This team of Alabama Contest Group operators also placed #10 in this category in W/VE.

Multi Multi

W4RM	**6,636,942**

There was only one Multi-Multi operation in the region hosted by Bill, W4RM. The operators were K4RG, K4UVA, K5OF, N3AHA, NO4N, W4MFM, W4NF, W4RM and W7IY. They place a respectable #4 in the W/VE national standings.

Southeastern Division Soapbox

10 meter propagation was good even for end fed antenna dropped from 3rd floor window! N3CAV

10/15/20m, part-time. Compared to my performance last year, I nearly doubled my number of contacts, almost tripled. KD4ACG

10W doesn't stand up very well to pile-ups. N4CF

All S&P. I wish many stations would give call signs more often and more clearly. KY4P

Another Great Contest!!! KD4LYS

Awesome!!! N4JDB

BAND WAS GREAT BOTH DAYS...PLENTY OF STATIONS TO WORK AND STILL COULD GET IN PLENTY OF HOURS OF REST...GREAT TO BE CALLED BY RI1FJ, 7Q7BFC, 5X1C, VU2NKS AND MANY OTHER GREAT MULTS. N4PN

Eighteen new countries. KG4AKV

Good while it lasted....my radio failed, no transmit, no backup, end of contest. KE4KMG

Great contest despite bad prop forecast. N4LS

Great Contest! Thank you to the Sun Gods! W4DHT

GREAT CONTEST!!! YOU ALL DID AN EXCELLENT JOB IN GETTING THIS ONE DONE. THANK YOU

FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE CONTEST. KD4CX

Great Contest, many could use to turn their processors off. K4CGY

Great fun on detuned antenna! CDX seemed to be fair. N4NTO

Had fun introducing some new hams to HF, contesting and DX. N7FF

Had fun. Good to see 10 and 15 active. KA1DBE

I enjoyed this contest, band conditions were good. KT4FQ

Icom IC-7700, AL-1500, Mosley TA-53M, Double Bazooka Dipole. Limited time for contest. KD2JA

IS IT JUST ME OR DO ALL DX STATIONS THINK THEY ARE IN A RACE? HARD TO UNDERSTAND CALL SIGNS. SLOW DOWN PLS. WC3A

Just a few Qs on a weekend when I had no time for ham radio. N9OH

Just cruising through band enjoying the scenery. BoB WA1FCN

Lots of contacts and fun. K3EQ

Mostly S&P with limited time this year. K8MN

Nice to have 10 meters open for this one! KE4VH

Operated from my winter home in Franklinton, Louisiana. NX8G/5

Part Time Effort of abt. 16Hrs. with Serious Case of Power Line Noise again this year. K4DMH

This is my first ARRL DX SSB. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed making the QSOs with my 100w rig. -73 K4AMQ

This was fun!! Want to do another one!! KK4DZP

When running QRP in a DX Contest, there can be no doubt that CW is more efficient than SSB! K3TW

Had a lot of fun and made some great DX contacts! I did not intend to submit my log, but was encouraged to do so by a few fellow hams. I did not log the power report of other stations at the time so I am now unable to report it. This is my first contest log submission so please forgive if I have done something incorrectly. KF5FGF

I5KAP was the neatest QSO, he reported his power as 500 MILLIWATTS and he was louder than some of the KWs! N2WN

Many thanks to the ARRL for sponsoring the contest, and many thanks to all of the patient ops with great ears who were able to pull my signal out of the pileups. All S&P with a K3, wires in palm trees and N1MM, which worked flawlessly as usual. 10m was very productive, and I was happy with my choices of when to switch from one band to another. 73 KK4CIS

Operated contest while mobile on solo trip from Madison, AL to Waco, TX. Recorded QSOs in MS, AR, and TX. AA2MA

Southwestern Division

By David Hodge, N6AN

As Bill, N6RV, summed it up, "*Boy, this was a tough one!"*

Conditions were not what they had been for the CW DX contest two weeks before.

Jim, W6YI, stated, *"This was one of the hardest tests to stay in the seat due to the poor conditions and S7 plus line noise."*

In both cases their perseverance, their ability to 'keep the butt in the chair', paid off. W6YI took division honors in the SOAB-HP category, out distancing his nearest rival by a factor of 1.6. Interestingly, N6RV, accomplished the same feat in the SOAB-LP category by the same margin. That is making lemonade out of lemons.

W6QU, QRP, KO7AA, SOU-HP, W7IV, SOU-LP and NX6T, MS-HP, also prevailed in their categories by wide margins.

Division Winners and Margin of Victory

Cat	Div. Winner	Score	Runner-up	Score	Margin
MM	KY7M	102,060	N1JM	12	102,048
MSH	NX6T	1,140,192	AK7AZ	467,571	672,621
SOSB-10	KI6LZ	19,803	K9WZB	10,500	9,303
SOSB-15	N7DD	456,780	NU6S	182,016	274,764
SOSB-40	K7WP	18,600	W6DAF	468	18,132
SOUHP	KO7AA	1,074,546	N6QQ	621,600	452,946
SOULP	W7IV	639,144	NN6CH	260,712	378,432
SOHP	W6YI	1,565,748	K5RR	1,001,286	564,462
SOLP	N6RV	473,526	K7ACZ	283,500	190,026
SOQRP	W6QU	92,916	N6HI	6,072	86,844

Division activity was down about 80% according to submitted logs. Arizona maintained its level of activity

while we Californians, especially in ORG and SDG, either didn't submit a log, were active outside the division or found something else to do.

Comparing 2012 and 2013 solar flux indices shows that band conditions were down, too. The 2012 event began with a 116 SFI which climbed to 132 over the 48 hour period. This year's contest sputtered to a start at 111 SFI. The flux had increased a mere two points by contest end.

Participation

AZ	48
LAX	17
ORG	11
SB	15
SDG	8
Total	99

Section Leaders (* indicates only one entry)

Cat	AZ	LAX	ORG	SB	SDG
MM	KY7M	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
MSH	AK7AZ	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	NX6T*
SOSB-10	K9WZB*	KU6T*	No Entry	KI6LZ	No Entry
SOSB-15	N7DD	W6AFA*	KG7HR*	No Entry	No Entry
SOSB-40	K7WP	No Entry	W6DAF*	No Entry	No Entry
SOULP	No Entry	AG6AN	NN6CH*	W7IV	W6KY*
SOUHP	KO7AA	N6QQ	K5OA	W6TK*	KY6LA
SOHP	K5RR	WA6URY*	WA6KHK	AG6AY	W6YI*
SOLP	N7IR	K6ICS	WW6O	WA6FGV	WA5TVO
SOQRP	N6HI*	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	W6QU* (W8QZA)

West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)

W6YI	1,565,748	SOHP	US/VE: 9th	SDG
K5RR	1,001,286	SOHP		AZ
K6XX	813,564	SOHP		SCV
N6RV	473,526	SOLP	US/VE: 10th	LAX
K7ACZ	283,500	SOLP		AZ
VE6EX	240,588	SOLP		AB
W6QU (W8QZA, OP)	92,916	SOQRP	US/VE: 8th	SDG
N6HI	6,072	SOQRP		AZ
KO7AA	1,074,546	SOUHP		AZ
KG7H	680,394	SOUHP		ID
K9JF	648,531	SOUHP		WWA
N6QQ	621,600	SOUHP		LAX
W1SRD	601,128	SOUHP		SV
W7IV	639,144	SOULP	US/VE: 7th	AZ
VA7BEC	283,434	SOULP		BC
NN6CH	260,712	SOULP		ORG
NX6T	1,140,192	MSH	US/VE: 7th	SDG
AK7AZ	467,571	MSH		AZ
K2PO	833,490	MSL		OR
W6WB	3,403,332	M2		SCVEB
N6ZZ	3,890,025	MM		EB

I believe this is the fourth year in a row that W6QU tops the QRP category. Well done, Bill.

Club Competition

The Arizona Outlaws Contest Club put 67 logs together to take 10th place in the Unlimited category of the club competition. Placing 7th in the Medium category was the Southern California Contest Club with 39 entries. With four logs the San Diego DX Club took 10th place in the Local category.

Random Notes

I will guess that one of the youngest area participants, if not the youngest, is AG6AN. Not only does Richard have good taste in call signs, he lives within a few miles of the author. According to his QRZ.COM page he is 16 years old and quite an enthusiastic ham. He was the section leader in SOULP last year. Richard's soapbox: "*Great Contest, lots of fun. Worked 82 entities, even in the mediocre sunspot conditions, 8 of which were new!"* Congratulations, Richard!

W8QZA has piloted W6QU to a QRP division victory four years in a row. Well done! A look at Bill's QRZ.COM page shows a modest antenna array so he is working those 5 watts hard.

Congratulations to K5RR for winning the Seventh Call Area Single Operator High Power Phone plaque.

Hearing the call sign N6ZZ during the contest was a wonderful remembrance of our dear friend, consummate operator/contester and long time resident of California Phil Goetz. Thanks to N6RO and crew for paying tribute to Phil while topping the division in multi-multi.

West Gulf Division

Africa

Asia

No writeups this year

Canada

By John Sluymer VE3EJ

Another great contest has come and gone. 2013 provided rather good conditions overall with a slight tilt toward the high bands as a result of increased solar activity. Canadian participation as measured by submitted logs was slightly down but varies only a few percent over the last few years. There was good activity from across the country but as evidenced below, the rare Northern multipliers of Nunavut and the Yukon remained rare with no logs received from those regions.

Regional Distribution

		2013	2012	2011	2010
Newfoundland	VO1:	4	3	3	4
Labrador	VO2:	1	0	1	1
Nova Scotia	VE1:	3	5	5	6
New Brunswick	VE9:	5	5	5	4
Prince Edward Island	VY2:	3	3	4	3
Quebec	VE2:	12	14	16	14
Ontario	VE3:	43	54	48	47
Manitoba	VE4:	5	5	4	2
Saskatchewan	VE5:	7	7	4	7
Alberta	VE6:	7	8	11	12
British Columbia	VE7:	15	12	17	13
North West Territories	VE8:	1	3	1	1
Yukon	VY1:	0	0	0	2
Nunavut	VYØ:	0	0	0	0
	Total	106	119	115	116

Popularity

	2013	2012
SOLP	39	45
SOUHP	18	18
SOULP	17	12
SOSB-xx	16	15
SOHP	12	19
MSH	2	3
MSL	1	2
SOQRP	1	4
MM	0	1
M2	0	0

Allowing for some uncertainty in the amount of power run by the single band entrants, overall the low power entrants lead the high power entrants by about 20% in terms of participation. These numbers seem to track fairly closely over the past few years. From the above it would also seem that both Multi-Multi and Multi-Two operations are due from Canada. Perhaps in 2014!

Club Participation

41% of Canadian entrants indicated affiliation to a Contest Club. "Contest Club Ontario" (CCO) led the way with 26 participants followed by "Maritime Contest Club" (MARCC) with 9 and "Contest Group du Quebec" (CGQ) and "Orca DX and Contest Club (ORCADXCC) each with 8. Rounding out the picture were "Saskatchewan Contest Club" (SaskCC) with 4 entrants and "Alberta Clippers" with 2 followed by "BC DX Club" and "East Coast Canada Contest Club" with one a piece.

Overall CCO placed number 6 in the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition "Unlimited Category" with a total of 59,330,229 points from 66 entrants. MARCC placed 11th overall in the "Medium Category" with 15,393,759 points from 19 entrants followed by CGQ at 18th with just under 8 million points from 17 entrants. There were no Canadian entrants in the "Local Category".

If you are taking the time to do some of the math yourself, you are probably coming up with a big disconnect with the above totals until you realize that the club competition figures are a total for both Phone and CW combined. The club figures always appear with the Phone results as these are reported second.

The individual highlights of this year's contest are:

Special congratulations to Jeff …
VY2ZM – #1 VE/W Single Op, High Power.

Making the Top Ten boxes:

Single Operator, High Power
VY2ZM – First overall, #1 Canada
VE3EJ – Second overall, # 2 Canada.
VB3E (VE3AT) – Third overall, #3 Canada.
VY2TT (K6LA) – Fifth overall, #4 Canada.

Single Band 160 Meters
VE3EDY – Fifth overall, # 1 Canada.

Single Band 40 Meters
VE3MIS (VE3VE) – Third overall, #1 Canada.
VE3DZ – Seventh overall, #2 Canada.
VA3XH – Eighth overall, #3 Canada.
VE9AA – Ninth overall, #4 Canada.

Single Band 20 Meters
VA7ST – Seventh overall, #1 Canada.
VE1SQ – Eighth overall, #2 Canada.

Single Band 15 Meters
VE3KZ – Third overall, #1 Canada.

VE single band 15M champ - Bob, VE3KZ making some final adjustments to his 15 meter beam.

Top Canadian finishers and scores:

Single operator all band high power:
VY2ZM – 5,640,480

Single operator all band low power:
VE3NB – 556,830

Single operator all band (QRP):
VA3RKM – 3,330

Single operator assisted (HP):
VA2AM – 1,192,800

Single operator assisted (LP):
VE9ML – 567,474

Single operator 10 meters:
VE6BMX – 3,762

Single operator 15 meters:
VE3KZ – 322,500

Single operator 20 meters:
VA7ST – 72,150

Single operator 40 meters:
VE3MIS (VE3VE) – 74,292

Single operator 80 meters: (No Entry)

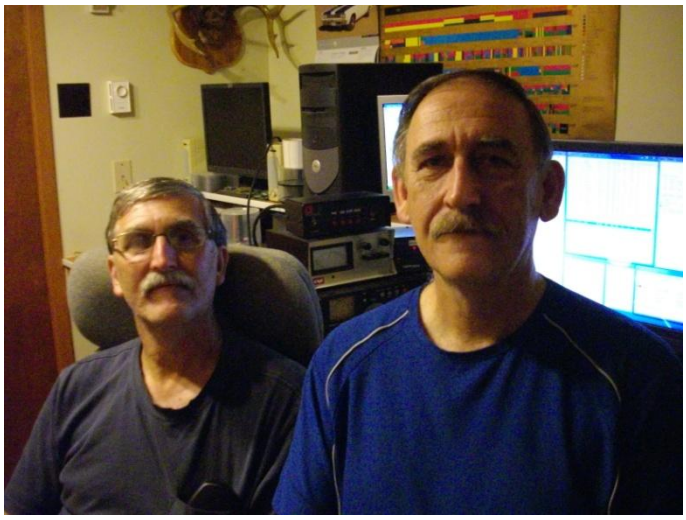
Single operator 160 meters:
VE3EDY – 1,260

Multi Single (High):
VE2NGH – 1,244,100

Multi Single (Low):
VE7NA – 12,300

Multi Two: (No entry)

Multi-Multi: (No entry)



Single Op Unlimited, Low Power champ Marcel, VE9ML (L)

Odds and Ends:

One Canadian record was broken this year. Sam, VE3VE operating at the Mississauga club station VE3MIS broke VE6MA's eleven year old 40 meter record by about 20%. Jeff VY2ZM came within a whisker of breaking his own Single Op high band (VE) record. He missed it by less than 7,000 points out of 5.6 million. My calculator says that is something just over .001%! It makes one think about that extra coffee break during the contest.

With the upswing in conditions, 2014 should be a great year for contesting. Let's all make a strong effort to be on during the next running of the ARRL International DX Contest which will be held on the 1st and 2nd of March. It would be nice to see all 14 Canadian multipliers active and represented in next year's results.

Caribbean Region

By Trent Fleming, N4DTF

As usual, Caribbean stations made a strong showing. 6 of the top 10 SOHP were from the region, and 7 of the top 10 SOLP. The ever-present 8P5A, with W2SC at the helm, brought in an impressive 9.2 million points, besting P49Y by 1.6 million or so in the HP category. Tom reported conditions down from last year, but still had some great runs, especially during the first day.

J88DR, with G3TBK running the show, claimed 3.8 million points, beating out VP2V/KE2VB by just under 300 thousand points. Dave reported that conditions took a dip on Sunday morning, but rallied for him later in the contest.

Many stations reported great conditions and long runs into various parts of the world, and of course all took advantage of the proximity to W/VE stations to increase their totals. The Caribbean climate certainly increased their enjoyment, as well!

TO22C brought in a score of over 4.6 million points in the MSH category from Guadalupe, operating portable with verticals, as is their custom. HB9ELV operated ZF2EL and scored over 207 thousand points in the SOLP category. Chris reported this was a "just for fun effort" and that occasionally he had no takers on his CQ for as much as 30 minutes at a time…but when he got a pileup going, he thoroughly enjoyed the operating time and the FB ops he put in the log.

In the Multi-op Single HP category, PJ2T and VP5H ran a close race, finishing first and second, while PJ4G ran away with the Multi-two Category with over 12 million points. In the Multi-Single LP category, HI3K made a strong showing and finished second with over 3.1 million points. Finally, in the SOULP category, P4ØP made a strong showing, finishing in first with over 4.6 million points. W5AJ, operator, reported that conditions were not as good this year, especially on 10m, while he found 15 crowded. 160 propagation was fickle, although he did make some contacts.

Of note to this writer was the excellent signal, with only 100w, that CM5FZ had on 80m. In addition to working him in my 80m SB effort, I was pleased to listen in as he worked a number of W/VE and DX stations. Looking at his band report, it appears that Frank found good success on 40m and 15m, as well. All told, 633,600 points in SOLP from his beautiful island.

Europe

By Martti Laine, OH2BH

ONE MILLION POINT EU VIEW ON ARRL DX CONTEST (SSB) 2013

It is a known fact that Europeans like to work Americans (Yankees) and that American contesters need masses of Europeans to keep their pileups alive and scores high. It should be a two-way street but in the light of this year's scores that is not necessarily true. European contesters with any serious effort – or even semi-serious – are few and far between. As one-million points is considered a bare minimum of such and effort, there were only fourteen (14) SOAB entrants that stayed in the game for a full term. In 2013 CW, same number was 26 but yet low for a premier contest such as ARRL.

Station	*Operator*	*Score (Mpts)*	*Sub-region*
1: CR2X	ES2RR	6.890	A: WEST
2: LX7I	LX2A	4.455	C: CENTRAL
3: EF5Y	EA5GTQ	2.935	A: WEST
4: G5W	5B4WN	2.471	A: WEST
5: DK6XZ	E77XZ	2.416	C: CENTRAL
6: II2E	IK2NCJ	2.362	B: SOUTH
7: ED3B	EA3BOX	1.695	B: SOUTH
8: YU0T	YU1WS	1.663	C: CENTRAL
9: RU1A	URØMC	1.569	D: EAST
10: LN8W	LB8IB	1.401	E: NORTH
11: CT1CJJ		1.394	A: WEST
12: RL3A	RX3APM	1.306	D: EAST
13: ES95Q	ES5RY	1.122	E: NORTH
14: IR1A	IK1GPG	1.103	B: SOUTH

ARRL as the organizer may have a stake in promoting their contest to put the race on a better footing, but the analyses and the proposals to that end should come from Europe. Here's one for starters.

OPTIONS ON HAND

The is no doubt that exclusive EU listing for results is a good starting point, as it was with the CQWW Contest, but in this case it needs to go one step deeper. One reason for lack of motivation in Europe is that there is huge variation in the potential to work the US and Canada from one part of EU to the other. West is better than East and South is better than North.

There is nothing new here as it is exactly the same as at the other end of the circuit, in the US. There, a long time ago the huge score differences were balanced off by regionalizing the country for scores to boost the motivational factor. The K3LR team gets a kick, not out of their good scores, but the fact that they do it from a less favorable area than, say, KC1XX. Also, the sub-regional competition is intense.

In WRTC qualification, this approach is used equally in the US and Europe.

EUROPEAN SUB-REGIONS

This report is not about drawing sub-region borderlines - rather, the aim is to raise the question of how to boost serious European contesting by having such sub-regions. **I make a sweeping claim: the whole popularity of one of the two leading contests would immediately reach new heights if we were to look at Europe in terms of**

sub-regions and focus them accordingly. Maybe the organizers are not aware of the handicap inherent in the present rules. Hence, here are some basic facts:

REGION A - WEST: Spain, Portugal, including Azores and all British Isles have a huge edge as their low and high bands beat out all the others. That's the region to be!

REGION B - SOUTH: Everything in the vicinity of Italy and surrounding countries, great countries along the Adriatic Sea from Serbia and Montenegro to Croatia. They have much the same features as the West but openings are shorter and signals are somewhat attenuated.

REGION C – CENTRAL: Here the low bands start to attenuate to areas beyond the Rockies, as does 10M now being on the edge, depending on propagation numbers. Germany, Austria, Poland, the Netherlands are relatively competitive spots – often aided by powerful stations and dedicated operators.

REGION D – EAST: All of Russia is not a competitive area toward the US. Russians and East get what is left on the table plus are source of high QSO volume with Ukraine and others. Being out of reach for extra disturbance, such as aurora, keeps them somewhat more competitive than the Far North.

REGION E – NORTH: This is ARRL Contest wasteland with both low and high bands not existing and others opening for very short periods only. But there's some consolation for the Deep North of Lapland – a 20M Polar path that no other region in Europe can compete with. Hence 20M mono is for those who look for a needed lifeline during the winter months. Note EU 20M single-band (OH8X) and their polar trio's battle as a welcome dimension.

The neat set-up of Luca IK2NCJ enabled him to pilot II2E to sixth place in EU. Italians with their slick call-signs are well represented in ARRL contests while Sardinia (IS0), San Marino (T7) and Sicily (IT9) may be harder catches.

Now you can look at the European million pointers with new eyes. Variation is huge – some exceptional scores are outstanding such as those of CR2X and LX7I. Yet, comparing those two to II2E – even if threefold edge now – indicates that a 5 million score from Italy would be possible based on their regional characteristics and these three scores. Same way looking at CT1CJJ should have been up to Top-Two with serious effort of his son CT1ILT as it normally is.

EA3BOX had taken off his bullfighting outfit to race big time as ED3B. No. 7 in EU illustrates the fact that even central Spain is part of a good propagation zone. Temperamental Español Olé (!!) types are the salt of any radio competition.

EUROPEANS BANGING THEIR HEADS

Lumping all of Europe into a single score listing is unfair. Lumping Europeans together for a World listing is even more unfair. Therefore initiating sub-regional listings, awards and plaques would expand the million point club to a number desired and needed for Europe. Following the adjusted WRTC model with five (5) regions would go a long way toward motivating Europeans for more serious participation. It may even be practical for ARRL to have sub-regional European supporters to promote the ARRL Contest within their own setting, culture and language. The ARRL DX Contest is loved by Europeans and it needs more serious and new thinking.

DXPEDITIONING IN EUROPE

All World scores are done from contest locations of the world with operators traveling to do their "dream runs" from there. See the World Top-Ten listing. Those few that have traveled to and built up their continental contesting sites in Western Europe are not to envied for

not being born in Europe's contesting hotspots. They have been inspired to go to places where more favorable conditions exist, and this option is available to all now that the Iron Curtain is long gone. Jiri, OK1RI, from the third best European region took his stuff and traveled to Portugal, CS2C - no doubt his investment has paid off. So did the Finnish camp and set up their (CR2X) shop in the Azores.

Traveling for the ARRL Contest is relatively fresh approach but, once in full bloom, it may heat up intra-European competition to a level never experienced before and in the process those rare European multipliers would get activated. How about EA6, SV5, SV9 or 9H? Do not come to OHØ as it is full of white noise – aurora in variety of levels and shapes!

Here's the clean set-up at IK1GPG with controls of the IR1A contesting machine. Great job from Northern Italy and a marginal miss from EU Top Ten. As many EU contesters do both contesting and DX, their stations are not matched for an exclusive contest application.

START WITH SINGLE BANDS

Single-band activity from Europe is even worse than SOAB. Few sporadic entries here and there. Taking a wire and/or a small monobander and activating a rare European location in a good region can be very rewarding. Rotators would not be needed. The experience of being a rare "multiplier bird" for the US and Canada can prove a once-in-a-lifetime experience and elevate the "running Yankees" euphoria to new heights. Understanding the regionalization of Europe and its special characteristics can be a rich and educational experience while leaving those "crying babies" home with their less than optimum locations.

SUMMARY

Europeans love Americans and American love European - pileups! Now leading competitors from both sides need to meet at the drawing board to promote the ARRL DX Contest and put it on the right footing. CQWW operates with a large EU supporter network and local language rules. Now those associated with the ARRL DX Contest should climb down from their ivory tower and sit around the European fireworks. ARRL DX is a fun contest and it needs a fresh injection of French wine and German sausages added to the North's Santa Claus magic.

Estonian bulldozer, Toivo, ES2RR, first timer at CR2X, "put the church in the middle of the village", as Europeans describe it. Althouh he was disappointed as an 8 million score was in sight with few strategic elements missed he raised the EU record bar high up and matched the record performance of his good friend OH2UA on CW. These guys will come strong to race in the US WRTC 2014. Toivo came from the suffering North but adapted easily to the wild West. Congratulations!

SURVEY OF THE SSB MILLION POINTERS

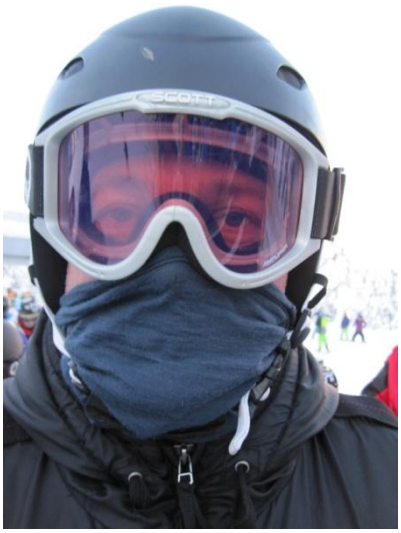
Reviewing the ARRL DX Contest among the European top fourteen (14) SOAB participants as ten (10) were happy to participate.

WAS THIS A MOST SERIOUS EFFORT FROM YOU?

This ranges from 23 hours (ES5RY) to 42 hours (ES2RR), almost double with much higher actual score potential than the listed scores illustrate. Potential was there from CR2X of 8 million to ES5RY 3 million. Already here it indicates that West EU has almost three times the potential of the North as a result of the duration of U.S openings at a ratio of 2 to 1.

Conclusion : It would not be reasonable to make various parts of EU compete in one category for a full 48 hours. One key option is to select 24 or 36 hours as key balancing and strategy point to make the overall EU competition more fair. The fact that all stations have a huge cap between potential and actual score only

illustrates lack of motivation with the current lumping of all EU into one category.



Reached in SV5 for this commentary, probably looking for a warmer and better QTH, this is the only picture Olaf LB8IB found about himself on his PC. No, he is not using this to get masked out but those Northern types can even go downhill skiing in between the short US openings.

BEST LOCATIONS FROM EUROPE TO NORTH AMERICA?

1: Azores, 2: Azores and 3: Azores (ES2RR) illustrates those feelings. But indeed all countries in the Western Region score high; CT, EA and F but also EI, GU and GM got listed. URØMC promotes TF which is rather interesting. If you ask the Radio Arcala gang (CR2X) about being in the Azores, they indicate that GM is better than the Azores for overall contesting score potential. Not in ARRL exclusively. So, here it is, for a small part, when the grass is always greener on the other side, but indeed the Azores comes out strongest.

ARRL 2013 was not popular with German nationals but gladly E77XZ was there to rescue one slot for Germany high up the list, EU No. 5! Where were the other Germans - is BCC down the hill?

DESIRE TO TRAVEL FOR BETTER SCORES?

Only three have no dreams but are happy with their home base. Others have had dreams to travel to their dream location - the Azores. ES2RR states: "A combination of good station and decent operator in the Azores is virtually unbeatable in EU in the ARRL DX Contest". This statement underlines two important considerations: good station and decent operator - still being needed, as shown by this year's winner and first-time visitor to the Azores who honestly rates his shortcomings as accounting for 15% of score. Not everyone should travel West and therefore sub-regional listings would do marvels in motivating EU participants.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF LOCATION, STATION AND OPERATOR?

The worse your QTH, the more value one put to it. Very understandable. URØMC and LX2A go highest (70%) followed by 5B4WN (60%) of 100% while DK6XZ's (30%) would still hold the operator responsible for the highest value (40%) of the score. A hypothetical question but no doubt even a modest operator would do well from the best locations in Europe. It is also interesting that several, such as IK1GPG, accord location, station and operator equal value in the race. That should be the desired target.

To be ranked among the Top Ten in EU from a northerly Russian location (RU1A) requires some determination. One may ask why is someone heading North instead of South. One will certainly be attracted by "the horse station of RU1A" in dreaming of victory. No more?

THEN THE #1 QUESTION: WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL EUROPEANS, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION, TO SHOW GREATER INTEREST IN ARRL DX CONTEST?

Indeed, for the sake of fairness, a high majority of participants recommend sub-regional score listing along the lines implemented in the US with dedicated trophies and certificates. So, here the message is loud and clear.

But surprisingly high comes the desire to turn the ARRL DX Contest into a 36-hour chosen race the same way as CQ WPX which would ensure more motivational participation. Here the variation in propagation conditions from 23 hours to 42 definitely kills the 48-hour initiative. Coming as a strong third is the value of a better website with current and historical data, a need that 5B4WN describes so well.

Philippe LX2A sums it up in a nutshell:

"*Fair recognitions among the European sub-regions make all the difference from North to South and East to West. More details about the European competition in the final results. Lumping Caribbean and European scores into the same listing is unfair as working USA from the Caribbean is not comparable to Europe. Some really good EU scores never show up in the results for the above reasons. The results are extremely detailed about the US scores but not for other parts of the world.*"

Philippe LX2A at the helm of LX7I is a serious operator and contest station builder. It is no surprise that his powerful station layout and his willingness to do well helped him climb to the European top. His 40 hours on the chair and his rare mult status assisted him along the way. Great score, Philippe!

And my personal conclusion: ARRL DX Contest would be fun for Europe if the contest rules and recognitions were fair and if contest management was on a par with other major contests.

Thank you, Europeans: DK6XZ, EA3BOX, ES2RR, ES5RY, IK1GPG, LB8IB, LX2A, URØMC, RX3APM, 5B4WN and OH6KZP who pulled out the numbers.

Toomas, ES5RY searched the South for a better location but here on the Tower of Pisa (Italy) he was losing his horizon, which should never happen to a contester. But now Toomas is back home for more fighting and decent scores.

Central America

By Diego Salom, LU8ADX

Assisted and translated into English by Hector Garcia XE2K and Diana Garcia XE2DN

En la categoría Multi-multi (MM) desde Centroamérica, este año no hemos contado con la presencia de ninguna estación activa durante dicho concurso.

This year there were no participants in the Multi–Multi category from Central America for this contest.

En la categoría Multi2 (M2) desde Costa Rica, estuvo en el aire la estación TI8M con un equipo integrado por TI2JCY, TI2KAC, TI4ZM, K4UN, W4BW, W4KTR y W4XO, siendo la única estación de la región en esta categoría, habiendo logrado el 3er puesto mundial, detrás de PJ4G y TM6M.

This year there was only one station participating in the Multi2 (M2) Category in the region. It was from Costa Rica the TI8M team integrated by TI2JCY, TI2KAC, TI4ZM, K4UN, W4BW, W4KTR, and W4XO, reaching 3rd. place in the world just behind PJ4G & TM6M.

CALL	SCORE	QSO	MULT	160	80	40	20	15	10
TI8M	6.618.240	6947	320	146/37	658/57	1095/58	2094/59	2194/58	760/51

TI8M Team. (Photo W4BW)

En la categoría Multi-Single, High Power (MS-HP) hubo una estación participante, que obtuvo no solo el primer puesto en la región, Segundo lugar en Norte America detrás de VP5H y el 4to puesto en la grilla mundial quedando a 3 millones de puntos de la Campeona que fue PJ2T, los operadores fueron Marco Antonio Soto XE2S, Fernando Ramírez XE2ST y Héctor García XE2K operando el indicativo XE7S desde su estación en Hermosillo Sonora, trabajando difícilmente las bandas al tener muy fuerte ruido eléctrico.

In the Multi-Single High Power Category (MS-HP), XE7S was the only station operating from the region who achieved not only the first place regionally, but also second place in North America, just behind the VP5H team, and 4th in the World with 3 million points below the Champion PJ2T. The operators were Marco Antonio Soto XE2S, Fernando Ramirez XE2ST, and Hector Garcia XE2K, from Hermosillo, Sonora; who worked the bands under high electric noise level.

XE2K. (Photo XE2K)

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
XE7S	5.242.560	5491	320	228/47	645/57	754/55	1463/59	1485/60	916/42

En la categoría Multi-Single, Low Power (MS-LP), con solo una estación participante que lo hizo desde Belice, fue V31VJ operada por V31LJ y V31AC, estando activa algo más de 39 horas.

There was only one participant in the Multi-Single Low Power Category (MS-LP). From Belize signing as V31VJ, the team operated by Lee DziekanV31LJ and Stan Arnett II V31AC. They were active for something more than 39 hours.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
V31VJ	1.931.904	2518	258	0/0	440/54	506/55	638/57	275/44	659/48

En la nueva categoría que está disponible desde el año 2011, la Single-Op Assisted, High Power (SOU-HP) Gustavo Oliva XE1OGG con casi 1200 QSOs fue el mejor clasificado de la región.

For the Single-Op Assisted High power (SOU-HP) and new since 2011, Gustavo Oliva XE1OGG was the best ranked in the region with almost 1200 Q's.

XE1OGG (Photo XE1OGG)

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
XE1OGG	585.144	1165	172	1/1	4/4	334/47	289/44	437/55	100/21

En la nueva categoría que está disponible desde el año 2011, la Single-Op Assisted, Low Power (SOULP) no hubo participación desde Centroamérica.

The Single-Op Assisted Low Power (SOU-LP) Category new since 2011 was also deserted in Central America.

En la categoría Single-Op, High Power (SOHP) hubieron 2 participantes desde la región de Centroamérica. El 1er lugar de la región y 8vo en el Top Ten Mundial clasifico

Scott Tuthill K7ZO operando desde Rivas, Nicaragua como YN5Z, el 2do lugar para la región fue para Luis Delgadillo, XE2B desde Aguascalientes.

The Single-Op High Power Category (SOHP) for Central America showed 2 participants. The First place and 8th Top Ten in the World was Scott Tuthill K7ZO operating from Rivas, Nicaragua as YN5Z; Luis Delgadillo XE2B, took 2nd place from Aguascalientes in Central Mexico.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
YN5Z (K7ZO, op)	4.356.108	5271	276	0/0	270/47	680/56	1001/57	1416/60	1904/56
XE2B	696.480	1461	160	0/0	24/16	6/5	131/38	429/52	861/49

K7ZO / YN5Z. (Photo K7ZO)

XE2B. (Photo XE2B)

En la categoría Single-Op, Low Power (SOLP) hubieron 3 participantes desde Centro América, esta categoría que era la más concurrida de la región, ha sufrido una disminución de participantes.

El mejor clasificado fue Brian Machesney K1LI que participo desde Belice como V31Y habiendo logrado el 1er lugar de la región y 6to puesto mundial, seguido por Miguel Arechavaleta, XE1XOE que logró un 8vo puesto en la grilla mundial y el 3er puesto de Centro América quedó para Yahir López XE2JA.

The Single-Op Low Power Category (SOLP) used to be most active in the Central America region in the past; nowadays, the category had suffered a significant loss in participants.

The best classified was Brian Machesney K1LI as V31Y from Belize reaching first place in the region and 6th place in the Top Ten in the World, followed by Miguel Arechavaleta XE1XOE who also placed 8th in the World; 3rd. from Central America was Yahir López XE2JA.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
V31Y (K1LI, op)	1.786.428	2374	252	0/0	263/48	314/47	871/57	367/52	559/48
XE1XOE	1.089.225	1570	235	8/5	202/41	134/38	353/49	439/51	434/51
XE2JA	30.798	194	59	8/6	0/0	100/29	94/30	0/0	0/0

K1LI/V31Y on the right. (Photo K1LI XYL)

En la categoría Single-Op, Single-Band 10 (SOSB10) este año hubieron 3 participante desde Centro América, el 1er lugar en Centro América fue para Arturo Hernández, XE1BY con 10 horas de actividad y con casi 1300 QSOs, en 2do lugar en la región quedo, Antonio Gómez, XE1H y detrás de él quedo XE3/N3IQ.

There were 3 contesters in the Single-Op Single Band 10 Category (SOSB10) this year from Central America. The first place was Arturo Hernandez XE1BY being active for 10 hours and almost 1300 Q's; 2nd place in the region was Antonio Gomez XE1H and behind was XE3/N3IQ.

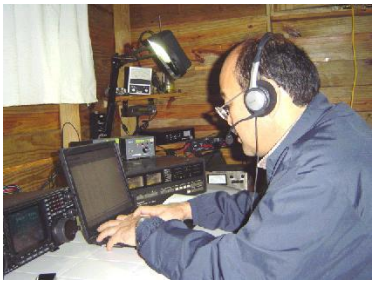
CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
XE1BY	202089	1278	53
XE1H	71910	514	47
XE3/N3IQ (N3IQ, op)	288	12	8

XE1H. (Photo XE1H)

En la categoría Single-Op, Single-Band 15 (SOSB15), Participó solo 1 estacion, el 1er lugar en la región fue para Hiro Nakamura JA6WFM que activó el indicativo HQ2N.

In the Single-Operator Single-Band 15 (SOSB15) category participated only one station from Central America. First place in the region went to Hiro JA6WFM who was active as HQ2N.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
HQ2N (JA6WFM, op)	277.359	1574	59



JA6WFM / HQ2N. (JA6WFM)

En la categoría Single-Op, Single-Band 20 (SOSB20), el primer lugar en la región fue para Francisco Vassaux TG9ANF pudiendo hacer 1081 QSOs y 61 multiplicadores desde Guatemala, un poco menos que el año anterior debido a las malas condiciones, seguido de su compatriota Edgar Morales TG9AXF y el 3er lugar fue para Octavio Alire XE2JUM.

In the Single-Op Single Band Category (SOSB20) Central America region, the first place went to Francisco Vassaux TG9ANF who reached 1081 Q's and 61 multipliers, a few less than the last year due to the worst condition; he was followed by his fellow citizen Edgar Morales TG9AXF; 3rd place went to Octavio Alire XE2JUM.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
TG9ANF	195.810	1081	61
TG9AXF	35.370	264	45
XE2JUM	1836	34	18

TG9ANF. (Photo TG9ANF)

TG9AXF. (Photo TG9AXF)

En las categorías de las bandas bajas como lo son Single-Op, Single-Band 40 (SOSB40), Single-Op, Single-Band 80 (SOSB80) y Single-Op, Single-Band 160 (SOSB160), no hubo participación desde Centroamérica.

There was no participation from Central America on the low bands categories such as are Single-Operator Single-Band 40 (SOSB40), Single-Operator Single-Band 80 (SOSB80), and Single-Operator Single Band 160 (SOSB160).

South America

By Diego Salom, LU8ADX

Assisted and Translated into English by Hector Garcia XE2K and Diana Garcia, XE2DN

Durante el concurso, el SFI estuvo oscilante, el primer día se mantuvo en 111 y llegó a 112 el día domingo.

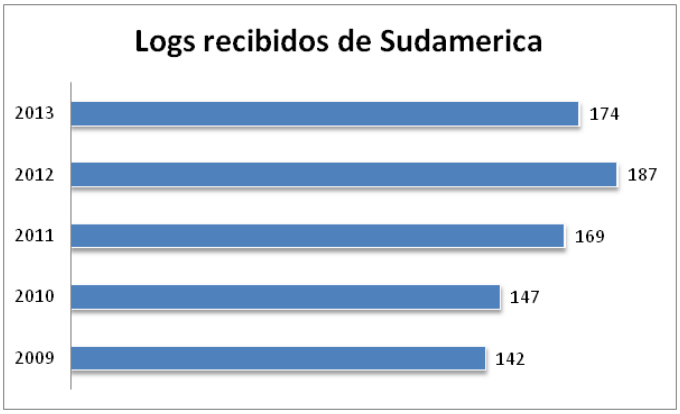
Con un total de 174 logs recibidos desde el continente Sudamericano, por primera vez en los últimos 5 años se registró una disminución de un 7%, de participantes comparado con el año anterior. A pesar de ello, el número no es malo, ya que con 174 logs recibidos aun se mantiene por arriba de lo recibido en los años 2009, 2010 y 2011.

También desde éste continente se han batido dos records, no solo a nivel continental sino que también a nivel mundial.

The SFI was oscillating during the contest; the first day stayed at 111 and by Sunday it reached 112.

There were 174 logs received in total from South America. For the first time in the last five years, it was recorded a decrease of 7% in the number of contesters compared with 2012. However; it is not bad at all, because the number is still higher than the received on 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Also, from this continent two records were broken, not only Continental but in the World.



Logs received from South America

A continuación paso a darles un breve comentario de la actividad sudamericana en cada una de las categorías de éste concurso.

In the next lines, I will give you a brief explanation about the South American activity in each one of the categories in this contest.

Comenzando con la categoría Multi-Multi (MM), hubo 3 estaciones participando desde Sudamérica, la ganadora HK1NA ha batido no solo el Record Sudamericano, sino que también el Record Mundial. Los operadores de la estación Jumanji ubicada en Barranquilla Colombia fueron HK1R, HK1N, HK1T, HK1X, W7EJ, LU8EOT y LU9ESD, ellos participaron durante las 48hs con un 0,7% de errores en su log.

El 4º lugar en el mundo y 2º en el continente fue para, LP1H desde de Córdoba, Argentina operada por: LU5HM, LU2NI, LU3HY, LU7HH, LU4DX, LU5DX, LW4HR, ellos participaron durante las 42hs con un 0,5% de errores en su log.

Starting with the Multi-Multi Category (MM), there were 3 stations contesting from South America. The winner, HK1NA, has broken not only the South American record but the World record. The operators of the Jumanji Station in Barranquilla, Colombia were HK1R, HK1N, HK1T, HKX, W7EJ, LU8EOT and LU9ESD. They operated the 48 hours with only 0.7% errors in the log.

The 4th Place in the World and Second in the Continent was for LP1H from Cordoba, Argentina, operated by: LU5HM, LU2NI, LU3HY, LU7HH, LU4DX, LU5DX, and LW4HR. The operated only for 42 hours and had only 0.5% errors in the log.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
HK1NA	15.278.994	14.472	354	623/56	1352/59	1735/59	3674/59	2769/60	3329/60
LP1H	5.627.421	7.213	261	0/0	48/26	620/56	1853/59	2045/60	2647/60
PY3PA	368.160	954	130	0/0	0/0	1/1	166/44	74/29	713/56

LU8EOT HK1R HK1X W7EJ-CN2R HK1N LU9ESD HK1T. (Photo HK1R)

LU5DX LU2NI LU3HY LW5HR LW4HR LU7HH LU5HM LU4DX. (Photo LU5HM)

Con un incremento de participantes, se han recibido 4 logs en la categoría Multi-2 (M2) desde ésta región, el primer lugar Mundial desde Bonaire, fue para PJ4G operada por K2NG, NA2AA y W5OV, con solo un 0,4% de errores en su log. Ellos estuvieron a menos de un millón de puntos de lograr el record en la categoría, que actualmente lo tiene PJ2T con 13.061.412 de puntos desde en el año 2003.

Increasing the entry number in the Multi-2 Category, with 4 logs received from the South American region, the first place in the World was for PJ4G from Bonaire operated by K2NG, NA2AA, and W5OV, with only 0.4% errors in log. They finished with less than 1 million points from a new record in this category which is kept by PJ2T with 13.061.412 points since 2003

El 2º puesto Continental y 4to. Mundial, fue para HD2A, estación Sapo Loco, ubicada en las afueras de Guayaquil y los operadores fueron: HC2AQ, RA1AGL, W6NF, K7MKL y RC5A.

En 3er. lugar en Sudamérica y 6to el mundo califico PX2C operada por PY2BK, PY2LSM, PY2PT, PY2ZXU y PY2DM.

ZV5O, clasifico en el 4to lugar en Sudamérica y 10mo en la grilla mundial operada por PY5AB, PY5AKW, PY5DC, PY5DJ, PY5FB, PY5FO, PY5IN, PY5KA, PY5QW y PY5ZD.

The second Place Continental and 4th in the World was for HD2A from Sapo Loco Station in the outskirts of Guayaquil, the operators were HC2AQ, RA1AGL, W6NF, K7MKL, and RC5A.

ZV5O reached the 3rd place in South America and 10th in the World operated by PY5AB, PY5AKW, PY5DC, PY5DJ, PY5FB, PY5FO, PY5IN, PY5KA, PY5QW, and PY5ZD.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
PJ4G	12.375.231	12140	341	283/46	819/57	2016/59	25685/60	3223/60	3231/59
HD2A	5.587.296	6361	296	33/17	325/49	498/53	1232/59	2431/59	1842/59
PX2C	4.112.325	5467	245	0/0	23/16	323/50	1543/58	1662/60	2096/61
ZV5O	2.508.822	3801	222	0/0	0/0	159/45	10475/59	1091/58	1504/60

W5OV, NA2AA and K2NG. (Photo K2NG)

RA1AGL RC5A HC2AQ HC2AO K7MKL W6NF. (Photo RC5A)

Con la participación de 6 estaciones desde Sudamérica en la categoría Multi-Single High Power (MS-HP) el ganador del continente y a la vez campeón mundial nuevamente aunque con un 8% menos de puntos que el año anterior, fue PJ2T, operada por K6AM, K8LEE, WØCG y DL5AXX, haciendo un excelente trabajo.

En 2do puesto en el continente y fue para PY1ON desde Teresopolis RJ, operada por PY1NB, PY1ZV, PY1ON, PY1CPF, PY1CG, PY1TR y PY1EW.

En 3er lugar en Sudamérica quedó L73D operada por LU2BPM, LU7DW, LW6DW, LU9CBL, LU1BJW y LU9CBM, desde Munro, Provincia de Buenos Aires.

With an entry of 6 stations from South America in the Multi-Single, High Power Category (MS-HP) the Continent winner and World Champion again was PJ2T, although this year the station got 8% less points than the past year. The operators that made a great job were K6AM, K8LEE, WØCG, and DL5AXX.

The 2nd position in South America went to PY1ON from Teresopolis RJ, with a team integrated by PY1NB, PY1ZV, PY1ON, PY1CPF, PY1CG, PY1TR, and PY1EW.

The 3rd position in the continent belongs to L73D operated by LU2BPM, LU7DW, LW6DW, LU9CBL, LU1BJW, and LU9CBM, located in Munro, Buenos Aires province.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
PJ2T	8.271.822	8056	346	293/50	782/58	1149/59	1735/59	2035/60	2062/60
PY1ON	2.145.696	2944	248	0/0	29/18	410/53	508/59	904/60	1093/58
L73D	1.179.864	2367	168	0/0	0/0	1/1	471/54	631/55	1264/58
3G3W	1.163.370	2063	190	0/0	0/0	70/26	604/58	480/50	909/56
CV5K	949.716	1740	186	0/0	0/0	77/28	402/49	640/54	621/54
PY5JP	60	5	5	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0	4/4

K6AM and K8LEE operated the PJ2T Station. (Photo WØCG)

PY1ON Team. (Photo PY1ON)

En la categoría Multi-Single Low Power (MS-LP) y que solo tiene tres años de antigüedad, hubo 5 estaciones participantes desde este continente.

El 1er lugar en Sudamérica y 5to lugar en el mundo fue para PW1A desde Rio de Janeiro, operada por PY1NX, PY1GQ y PU1MKZ.

En un 2do puesto continental y 9no en el mundo clasificó CE2LS Radio Club La Serena operada por CE2SQE y CE2RTF y el 3er puesto sudamericano y 10mo en la grilla mundial quedo PY2RH operad por él y PY2ZR.

Multi-Single, Low Power Category. (MS-LP) This category is only 3 years old and only got 5 participant stations from this continent.

First place for South America and 5th place in the World was for PW1A from Rio de Janeiro, operated by PY1NX, PY1GQ, and PU1MKZ.

The 2nd Continental position and 9th in the World went to CE2LS Radio Club La Serena operated by CE2SQE and CE2RTF, and the 3rd position South America and 10th in the World went to PY2RH operated by himself and PY2ZR.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
PW1A	1.203.270	2131	190	0/0	0/0	77/29	232/46	857/57	965/58
CE2LS	318.384	743	144	0/0	0/0	15/11	153/40	206/42	369/51
PY2RH	314.976	783	136	0/0	0/0	0/0	134/40	235/43	414/53
LU1UM	222.384	669	113	0/0	0/0	1/1	61/24	270/47	337/41
PS2R	9.207	93	33	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	92/32

PY1NY,PY1GQ and PU1MKZ. (Photo PY1NX)

CE2RTF and CE2SQE @CE2LS (Photo CE2WZ)

Ahora es el turno de comentar la participación de las estaciones Single-Op Assisted, High Power (SOU-HP), que este año se recibieron 18 planillas, ha igual que el año anterior. El ganador Sudamericano y también ganador Mundial de este año fue Roberto, CE3CT operando su estación desde Chicureo a unos 20 Km de Santiago de Chile, habiendo tenido solo el 0,6% de errores en su log.

El 2do puesto Sudamericano y Mundial fue para Wanderley PY2MNL operando el indicativo ZZ2T y el 3er puesto continental fue para Sergio CE1TT desde Arica, ubicado al norte de Chile.

Now is the turn to talk about the participants in the Single-Operator, Assisted High Power (SOU-HP) Category. This year 18 logs arrived. As in the past year, the South American and World winner this year was Roberto CE3CT, operating his station from Chicureo located 20km from Santiago de Chile, reaching just 0.6% error in his log.

The 2nd place from South America and in the World was for Wanderley PY2MNL using the Call ZZ2T and the 3rd Continental Position was for Sergio CE1TT from Arica in northern Chile.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
CE3CT	3.691.776	4833	256	0/0	59/28	489/50	1020/60	1314/59	1951/59
ZZ2T (PY2MNL)	2.831.706	3856	246	0/0	35/19	307/50	814/58	1188/60	1512/59
CE1TT	966.264	2011	163	0/0	0/0	1/1	523/47	809/59	678/56
PY2EX	737.352	1469	168	0/0	0/0	24/17	304/47	385/47	756/57
PY2OE	539.736	1059	172	0/0	0/0	80/29	114/35	422/54	442/53
CE2MT	327.456	788	144	0/0	0/0	0/0	198/44	316/51	274/49
CE3PG	305.292	994	103	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	590/52	403/50
LU1DK	230.631	1318	59	0/0	0/0	0/0	1318/59	0/0	0/0
LU7YS	163.560	588	94	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	378/50	209/43
CV5D	160.950	936	58	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	936/58	0/0
PY2NZ	83.820	512	55	0/0	0/0	0/0	512/55	0/0	0/0
PT2CM (PT2FE)	77.880	487	55	0/0	0/0	487/55	0/0	0/0	0/0
CE3VM	55.968	360	53	0/0	0/0	360/53	0/0	0/0	0/0
PT2BAT	50.646	375	46	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	375/46
PY7VI	36.480	160	80	0/0	0/0	34/23	94/34	24/16	8/7
PY1ROG	34.944	185	64	0/0	0/0	2/2	54/20	66/19	63/23
PY1SX	19.488	119	56	0/0	0/0	0/0	71/31	15/11	33/14

CE3CT (Photo LU8ADX)

PY2MNL @ZZ2T. (Photo PY2MNL)

Asistidos Low Power (SOU-LP), la cual fue todo un éxito, ya que se recibieron 30 logs, 7 más que el año anterior, pasando a ser la categoría más concurrida de las categorías multibandas.

El 1er puesto no solo en Sudamérica, sino también gano la categoría Mundial, fue Robert, P40P desde Aruba, el opero algo más de 33 horas haciendo casi 5000 QSOs con solo el 0,4% de errores es su log.

El 2do lugar en Sudamérica y 8vo lugar en el mundo fue para Claudio, CE1VIL activando el indicativo 3G1D, desde Iquique, norte de Chile.

El 3er lugar para Sudamérica, desde el norte de Brasil, fue para Carlos, PT7ZT

Now is time to talk about another 3 year old category, the Single-Op Assisted Low Power (SOULP), which was a success with 30 logs received, 7 more than the past year becoming the most popular multiband category.

The First place not only in South America but also in the World was for Robert P4ØP from Aruba, his operation was a little more than 33 hours making near 5000 Q's reporting only a 0.4% error in his log.

The winner of the 2nd place for South America and 8th in the World, was Claudio CE1VIL with the special Call 3G1D from Iquique in Northern Chile.

The 3rd Place in South America from Northern Brazil was Carlos PT7ZT.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
P4ØP (W5AJ op)	4.630.209	4951	313	68/3	350/59	677/57	1300/60	978/60	1578/56
3G1D (CE1VIL op)	583.464	1298	151	0/0	0/0	3/3	127/37	559/55	609/56
PT7ZT	359.202	927	131	0/0	0/0	1/1	622/55	150/39	154/36
ZP9MCE	264.096	802	112	0/0	0/0	1/1	355/49	40/16	426/46
PY4ZE	192.753	1099	59	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1099/59
PY2COY	183.654	541	114	0/0	0/0	0/0	33/18	97/41	411/55
LU5CAB	148.800	513	100	0/0	0/0	1/1	106/29	36/19	370/51
ZP5DBC	136.038	583	79	0/0	0/0	0/0	120/30	0/0	463/49
PY4XX	127.203	397	109	0/0	0/0	0/0	154/37	174/45	69/27
LW4EU	125.802	734	58	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	734/58
PY2TKB	119.952	724	56	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	724/56
PY1RBM	113.736	686	56	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	686/56
LQ7E (LW3DN op)	112.404	503	76	0/0	0/0	0/0	10/8	20/12	473/56
LU2FLB	97.467	618	53	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	618/53
PU2WDX	64.740	425	52	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	425/52
CE1UMY	62.208	263	81	0/0	0/0	0/0	41/21	190/37	32/23
HK6F	60.768	434	48	0/0	0/0	0/0	434/48	0/0	0/0
PY1NYJ	43.659	191	77	0/0	0/0	2/2	82/33	15/12	92/30
PY5VC	41.958	228	63	0/0	0/0	0/0	7/5	15/9	206/49
AY3D	27.060	206	44	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	206/44	0/0
PY2DV	24.957	179	47	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	179/47	0/0
LU3MAM	15.870	118	46	0/0	0/0	0/0	35/18	66/18	17/10
PY2XC	15.402	151	34	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	151/34
PU5AGM	13.959	143	33	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	143/33
PY2ABN	6.699	80	29	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	80/29
PY2RDZ	2.508	39	22	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	33/22
PP5JN	2.088	29	24	0/0	0/0	3/3	11/9	2/2	13/10
PP5AX	765	19	15	0/0	0/0	1/1	3/3	12/8	3/3
PY3AJB	330	11	10	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	4/3	7/7
PY3OZ	192	8	8	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	1/1	6/6

W5AJ @P4ØP. (Photo W5AJ)

CE1VIL / 3G1D. (Photo CE1VIL)

Llego el turno de la máxima categoría de un mono operador, la Single-Op, High Power (SOHP), con un total del 12 logs recibidos desde Sudamérica, el primer lugar Sudamericano y 2do en el Top Ten Mundial fue para Andrew AE6Y activado su estación en Aruba P49Y con más de 7600 QSOs y 7.6 millones de puntos.

En 2do lugar en Sudamérica y 6to en el mundo fue para PS2T operada por Tom, PY2YU, con un excelente trabajo desde Araraquara. SP, habiendo superado los 6000 QSOs

Now we come into the maximum category of the Single Operator Categories: the Single-Op, High Power (SOHP) totaling 7 logs from South America. The first place South America and 2nd in the World was for Andrew AE6Y, using his Station P49Y in Aruba with more than 7600 Q's and 7.6 millions points.

The Second position in South America and 6th in the Top Ten went to PS2T operated by Tom PY2YU, with an excellent job from Araraquara SP passing the 6000 Q's.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
P49Y (AE6Y, op)	7.677.195	7673	335	207/43	567/57	928/58	2138/59	1966/59	1867/59
PS2T (PY2YU, op)	4.600.077	6135	251	1/1	30/21	613/52	1508/59	1376/58	2607/60
OA4SS	3.202.686	4224	254	0/0	138/34	266/47	1294/59	1386/58	1140/56
HK3JJH	2.011.746	2806	242	0/0	148/30	346/47	1006/59	819/58	487/44
CE3BPC	903.000	1776	172	0/0	0/0	9/9	506/54	606/54	655/55
ZV2K (PY2SHF, op)	575.736	1221	161	0/0	0/0	9/9	277/47	291/49	644/56
CE1DY	519.156	1535	114	0/0	1/0	0/0	520/56	0/0	1014/57
CX7ACH	470.244	1067	149	0/0	0/0	0/0	260/46	399/51	408/52
PY2EL	240.384	630	128	0/0	0/0	0/0	304/48	133/38	193/42
FY5PO	80.064	284	96	0/0	12/11	67/23	140/38	62/21	3/3
PV8ADI	52.170	268	74	0/0	0/0	109/31	0/0	9/8	150/35
PV8AZ	360	12	10	0/0	0/0	0/0	6/5	6/5	0/0

AE6Y / P49Y. (Photo AE6Y)

PY2YU @PS2T. (Photo PY2YU)

Habiendo recibidos 24 planillas de en la categoría Single-Op, Low Power (SOLP), el ganador Sudamericano fue LO7H, licencia especial de Gustavo, LU7HW desde Villa María, Córdoba y el 2do lugar del continente fue para Diego (Shankee), LU8ADX operando su indicativo especial AY8A desde la Ciudad de Buenos Aires y desde Vitoria, Brasil, Leo/PP1CZ se quedo con el 3er puesto en el continente sudamericano.

With 24 logs received in the Single Op, Low Power (SOLP), the winner for South America was LO7H, special call for Gustavo LU7HW from Villa Maria, Cordoba. The 2nd Place in the Continent was for Diego (Shankee) LU8ADX activating his special call AY8A from the Metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, and from Vitoria Brazil, Leo PP1CZ reached the 3rd place from South America.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160 Q	80 Q	40 Q	20 Q	15 Q	10 Q
LO7H (LU7HW, op)	7.165.568	1659	146	0/0	0/0	2/2	90/33	515/53	1052/58
AY8A (LU8ADX, op)	6.307.798	1321	161	0/0	0/0	2/2	351/52	414/52	554/55
PP1CZ	477.360	1055	156	0/0	0/0	5/5	359/50	435/53	256/48
K7ST/HC8	428.145	1247	115	0/0	0/0	0/0	414/52	825/56	8/7
PY1RY	341.541	844	137	0/0	0/0	0/0	110/34	193/46	541/57
OA6Q	330.885	823	135	0/0	0/0	0/0	345/48	246/44	232/43
ZX5ZZ (PY5PDC, op)	236.283	705	113	0/0	0/0	2/2	156/34	43/22	504/55
L59D (LU4EG, op)	186.186	690	91	0/0	0/0	0/0	146/38	0/0	544/53
CP1FF	167.499	510	111	0/0	0/0	0/0	97/28	224/46	189/37
CX9AU	155.043	485	107	0/0	0/0	4/4	165/31	181/34	135/38
LW1HR	136.968	443	104	0/0	0/0	0/0	110/28	57/25	276/51
LW9ETQ	134.784	449	104	0/0	0/0	0/0	127/30	83/28	239/46
PV8RF	128.544	424	103	0/0	2/2	0/0	99/32	111/31	212/38
PY1KR	108.630	434	85	0/0	0/0	2/2	0/0	340/49	92/34
PY1NS	74.880	323	78	0/0	0/0	0/0	4/3	119/34	200/41
LU7MCJ	68.460	330	70	0/0	0/0	0/0	36/23	294/47	0/0
PY2DXA	57.339	283	69	0/0	0/0	0/0	158/34	0/0	125/35
PY1RJ	41.541	235	61	0/0	0/0	1/1	209/45	0/0	25/15
PP5JAK	36.018	211	58	0/0	0/0	3/2	19/14	189/42	0/0
PY2KC	30.690	160	66	0/0	0/0	1/1	52/26	11/10	96/29
YV5AAX	27.264	129	71	0/0	0/0	0/0	58/28	45/25	29/18
PY2VOX	9.135	88	35	0/0	0/0	0/0	30/12	0/0	58/23
LR1A	840	20	14	0/0	0/0	0/0	8/5	0/0	12/9
CE3OVE	396	13	11	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/3	10/8

LU7HW / LO7H. (Photo LU7HW)

LU8ADX / AY8A. (Photo LU8ADX)

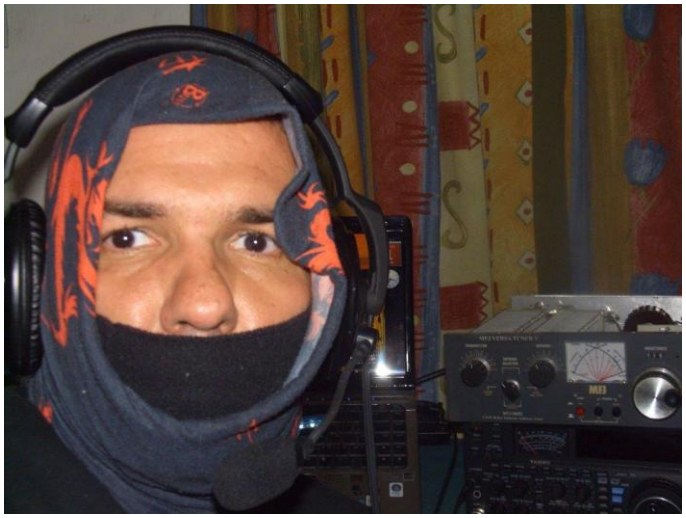
En la categoría Single-Op, QRP (SOQRP), participaron solo 2 estaciones desde éste continente, el primer lugar en el mundo y Sudamérica fue para Ymanol/YW2LV desde Galipán en el estado de Vargas, un lugar a 1700 metros sobre el nivel del mar, frente al mar Caribe.

El 2do lugar en el continente y 9no a nivel mundial fue para Antonio PY2BN desde Americana, SP.

In the Single-Op QRP Category (SOQRP) only 2 participants showed from South America. The first place in the World and Continental was for Ymanol YW2LV from Galipan in Vargas State, a place 1700 meters above sea level facing the Caribbean.

The 2nd position in the continent and 9th World belongs to Antonio PY2BN from Arimaca SP.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS	160	80	40	20	15	10
YW2LV (YV5YMA)	1.826.496	2771	224	0/0	0/0	305/51	765/59	597/58	1104/56
PY2BN	30.636	228	46	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/3	0/0	225/43



YV5YNA / YW2L. (Photo YV5YNA)

Entrando ahora en las categorías Mono banda, comenzamos por la banda de 10 metros, este año se recibieron 38 planillas desde Sudamérica, con menos participantes que el año anterior, pero sin duda sigue siendo la banda más elegida desde Sudamérica.

En Single-Op, Single-Band 10 (SOSB10), la categoría monobanda, dio como ganador mundial a Herve F5RHY operando TO1A desde Guyana Francesa con una antena de 7 elementos a 18 metros de altura.

El 2do puesto sudamericano y mundial se ubicó Lucas LU1FAM desde Rosario, Santa Fe, seguido con el 3er puesto en el sudamericano y mundial fue para René LU7HN desde San Francisco Córdoba, 4to lugar en el continente y en el Top Ten mundial fue para LR2F operado por Roberto LU2FA, 5to en Sudamérica y 7mo en la grilla mundial se ubico Fernando PY2LED desde Sao Caetano do Sul, en 6to lugar y 9no en el mundo clasifico Eduardo PU5FJR que opero desde la estación de su padre PP5JR, siendo un adolescente de solo 14 años logro meterse en el Top Ten mundial, también hay que destacar que solo sufrió el 1% de descuento por errores, y cerrando esta categoría también de Brasil Vaz PU2LEP clasificando 7mo en el continente y 10mo en la grilla mundial.

Now we have reached the time to start talking about the Single-band Categories. We will begin with 10 meters. South American stations sent 38 logs, less participants than last year, but still the more selected band to participate from South America.

In the Single Band 10 Category (SOSB10) Herve F5RHY operating from French Guyana as TO1A resulted in the World Winner using a 7 Element antenna at 18m High.

The second place in South America and in the World was Lucas LU1FAM from Rosario, Santa Fe, followed by Rene LU7HN with the 3rd place in the World and South America from San Francisco Cordoba; 4th place South America and in the World was for LR2F operated by Roberto LU2FA; 5th for South America and 7th in the World is placed Fernando PY2LED from Sao Caetano do Sul; in the 6th place South America and 9th in the World finished Eduardo PU5FJR operating PP5JR's station who is his father. Eduardo, being a 14 years old teenager, made it to the Top Ten World, and noting that he only suffered 1% reduction by errors in his log; closing the category also from Brazil, Vaz PU2LEP with a 7th position SA and 10th in the World.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
TO1A (F5HRY, op)	557784	3059	61
LU1FAM	508680	2835	60
LU7HN	425700	2386	60
LR2F (LU2FA, op)	412920	2306	60
PY2LED	357717	2031	59
PU5FJR	296100	1660	60
PU2LEP	277005	1572	59
XQ1KZ	252402	1436	59
YV4MP	246180	1513	55
CX5CBA	195762	1122	59
PY3KN	165528	983	57
PY2RF	143469	844	57
PU5DCB	139830	801	59
LW3DG	115254	680	57
LW7DUC	112365	688	55
LU5FR	106662	626	58
LU6FOV	100932	652	52
PY1PDF	99495	611	55
LU1ICX	97686	606	54
LU6DC	89430	544	55
LW8DQ	84168	508	56
LU1EXR	82824	481	58
PY5AP	68475	418	55
PV8DX	61776	432	48
LW6EGE	44298	330	46
LO7D (LW1DRH, op)	38016	294	44
PY1TL	37179	261	51
PU1KGG	28980	210	46
LU6UO	26796	209	44
PR4R	16029	147	39
LU8DY	13755	134	35
PU2SGL	11250	127	30
FY8DK	9828	118	28
PU2SDX	4941	61	27
PY2LCD	714	17	14
PY3DJB	546	16	13
CE3WYZ	168	9	7
PU2UJG	60	5	5

F5HRY @TO1A (Photo F5HRY)

LU1FAM @LT1F. (Photo LU1FAM)

En Single-Op, Single-Band 15 (SOSB15), con 12 logs recibidos el ganador continental y mundial de la categoría con casi 3700 QSOs, fue Marc F1HAR operando FY5KE, en 2do puesto continental y 3ro mundial quedo Sergio PP5JR operando la gran estación "Morro da Boa Vista" como PX5E desde Florianópolis.

For the Single Op. Single Band 15 Category (SOSB15), South American Stations sent 12 logs. The winner in the World and South America with almost 3700 Q's was Marc F1HAR operating FY5KE; the 2nd place Continental and 3rd in the World was reached by Sergio PP5JR operating the great Station "Morro da Boa Vista" as PX5E from Florianopolis.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
FY5KE (F1HAR, op)	673074	3688	61
PX5E (PP5JR, op)	507600	2831	60
YY4HAH	243000	1364	60
LR1F (LU5FD, op)	134235	790	57
YY4KWB	126198	797	54
HC1JQ	121800	735	56
CE3DNP	108576	706	52
PY2CDR	106344	646	56
LU1QAH	55386	373	51
HK3TK	55173	362	53
PY1MT	47334	328	49
HC5VF	12012	145	28

F1HAR @ FY5KE. (Photo F1HAR)

PP5JR / PX5E. (Photo PP5JR)

En Single-Op, Single-Band 20 (SOSB20) con 9 logs recibidos en esta categoría, el ganador en el continente y 3ro en el mundo ha sido Walter PP5WG operando PW5G, en 2do lugar y 5to en la grilla mundial quedo

John HK3C desde Bogotá y Marcio PY4OG de Belo Horizonte quedo 3ro en Sudamérica.

In the Single Op. Single Band 20 Category (SOSB20) there were 9 logs received for the category. The winner for South America and 3rd place in the World was Walter PP5WG operating PW5G; the 2nd place South America and 5th in the World was John HK3C from Bogota; Marcio PY4OG de Belo Horizonte ended 3rd in South America.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
PW5G (PP5WG, op)	391254	2162	61
HK3C	296100	1659	60
PY4OG	252720	1413	60
PS8NF	249216	1420	59
CX2DK	203406	1173	58
PY2NY	170274	964	59
LR1H	117276	679	58
PR7AR	89835	578	53
PY2KJ	54009	354	51

PP5WG and his wife. (Photo GM4AFF)

HK3C. (Photo HK3C)

En Single-Op, Single-Band 40 (SOSB40) con solo 3 logs recibidos desde Sudamérica, las condiciones estuvieron mucho mas complicadas que el año anterior, el ganador mundial y continental fue para Daniel YY4DNN habiendo comunicado con algo más de 2000 estaciones y 59 estados, en 2do lugar continental y 5to en el mundo fue para Juan YV5JBI operando lu indicativo especial YW5T y en 3er lugar continental y 9no en la grilla mundial quedo Edgar CE3EEA desde Curacavi.

In the Single Op, Single Band 40 Category (SOSB40) only 3 logs were received from South America. The Propagation conditions were more complicated than last year. The World winner and Continental was Daniel YY4DNN making a little more than 2000 Q's and 59 multipliers; the 2nd place Continental and 5th in the World belongs to Juan YV5JBI operating his special call YW5T; the 3rd place South America and 9th in the World went for Edgar CE3EEA from Curacavi.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
YY4DNN	349221	2010	59
YW5T (YV5JBI, op)	104193	689	51
CE3EEA	71280	453	54

YY4DNN. (Photo YY4DNN)

YV5JBI / YW5T. (Photo YV5JBI)

En Single-Op, Single-Band 80 (SOSB80) con 2 logs recibidos desde Sudamérica, el 1er puesto Continental y 3ro mundial fue para Werther YV5MSG desde Caracas y en 2do lugar continental y 10mo mundial fue para Luis HK6P.

For the Single Op Single Band 80 category (SOSB80), only 2 logs were received from South America. The first place continental and third in the World went to Werther YV5MSG from Caracas and the 2nd place South America and 10th in the World was reached by Luis HK6P.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
YV5MSG	89586	558	54
HK6P	28509	223	43

HK6P. (Photo HK6P)

YV5MSG. (Photo YV5MSG)

En Single-Op, Single-Band 160 (SOSB160) con solo 1 log recibido desde Sudamérica, el 1er puesto sudamericano y 4to mundial fue para Juan Carlos LU2DVI desde la provincia de Córdoba.

Finally, the Single OP, Single Band 160m Category (SOSB160) with only one log received from South America, the first in South America and 4th in the World belongs to Juan Carlos LU2DVI from Cordoba Province.

CALL	SCORE	QSOS	MULTS
LU2DVI	27	3	3

LU2DVI. (Photo LU2DVI)

Queremos agradecer especialmente a los que han donado las placas para los ganadores de cada categoría y en especial a las que han quedado en el continente sudamericano.

We want to thank all the sponsors who have donated the plaques for the winners in each category, with special attention to the sponsors for the South American participants.

Plaque Category / Placa Categoría	Plaque Sponsor / Placa Donada	Winner / Ganador
World 7 MHz Phone	Jim Rafferty, N6RJ Memorial - Cayman ARS	YY4DNN
World 28 MHz Phone	North Shenandoah DX Association NS4DX	TO1A (F5HRY, op)
World Single Operator Phone QRP	Bill Parker, W8QZA	YW2LV (YV5YMA, op)
World Single Operator Assisted, High Power Phone	Southern California DX Club	CE3CT
World Multioperator Two Transmitters Phone	W6NL and K6BL	PJ4G
World Multioperator Unlimited Phone	Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ	HK1NA

Oceania

By David E. Burger VK2CZ / K3HZ

The ARRL DX event in Oceania broke a 10 year growth trend in the number of participating stations. The 2012 event saw an all time record with the 74 participants from Oceania, and only a slight drop to 72 participants now in 2013. The major change was a drop in stations from Indonesia.

The number of 2013 QSO's with Oceania stations was a fraction over half that made in 2012, and a commensurate lower scoring outcome to boot.

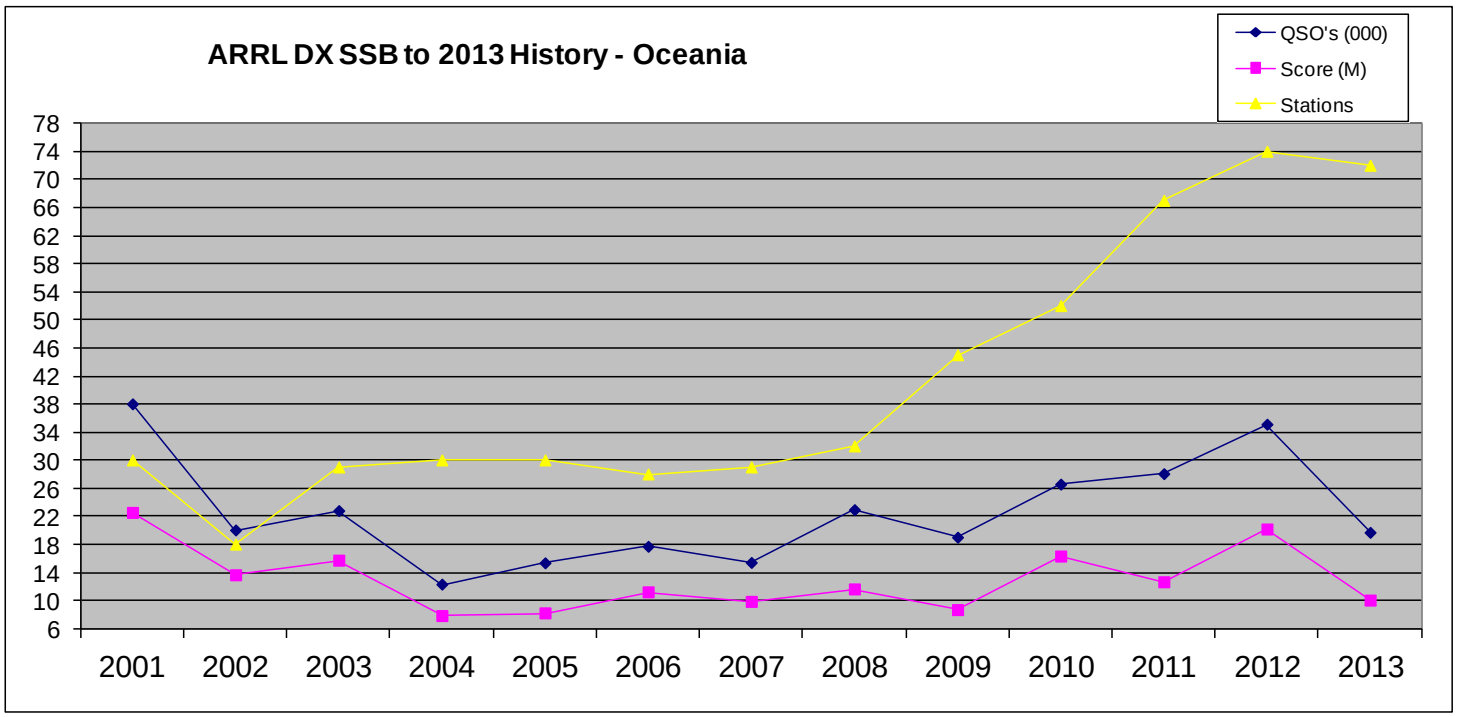
The performance of 10m is generally good in Oceania, but this year it was very patchy, and again just over half of last year's outcome on 10m; with stations located near the equator seeing the best results. As usual, there were no single band 160m category entered, but there was significant activity from KH6 on 160m.

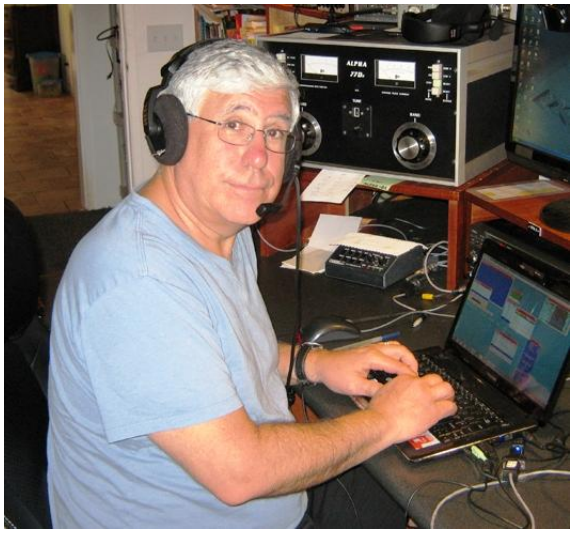
VK4QH was in 2nd place for SOUHP in Oceania

The consensus garnered on air concurred with my observations were that conditions were poor to average. Those stations with over 200kg of aluminum in the air and located near the equator were clear winners.

Prefix	Entity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
3D2	Fiji						1							
4W	Timor Leste		1											
9M6	East Malaysia		1				1	checklog	1	1		2	1	1
A3	Tonga						1		1					
DU	Philipines	5	1	4	7	4	3	4	2	4	7	12	11	11
FK	New Caledonia				1		1							
FO	Marquesas										1	1	1	
JD1/M	Minami Torishima													
KH0	Mariana												1	
KH2	Guam			1			1	1		1	2	1	2	1
KH6	Hawaii	8	5	7	6	9	5	11	10	11	11	11	8	10
P29	Papua New Guinea											1		
T31	Central Kiribati			1										
T32	Kiribati	1												
T88	Palau												1	
V73	Marshall	1												
V85	Brunei											1		1
VK	Australia	7	7	10	6	4	4	2	4	15	14	13	16	18
YB	Indonesia	3	2	4	7	8	5	7	10	8	12	20	30	24
ZK2	Niue Islands					1								
ZL	New Zealand	5	1	2	3	4	6	4	4	5	5	5	3	6

Station LOGS Received	30	18	29	30	30	28	29	32	45	52	67	74	72





Al NH7A was the top SOHP from Oceania

Soapbox comment summary

DU7HF	SOLP	Rig: ic-725, 70-Watt Only. With Di-Poor Wire Antenna, 7-Yard Up
KH6QJ	SOSB-80	Thanks for a great contest
NH6AB	SOQRP	First time trying a contest using QRP. Antennas makes the difference!
VK2FADD	SOSB-40	Rookie: Tough with just 10w. First contest for me only had my license for a month
VK2TTP	SOSB-40	VK still has a lot of trouble to get past the other Oceania stations
VK4TS	SOSB-40	Great Fun to be back in an ARRL contest - must make time for an all band effort in 2014
VK4UC	SOHP	AUSTRALIA POWER LIMITS: 10,15,20 METER BANDS=1000 W 40 METER BAND=400 W
VK6WX	SOLP	Just entered to hand out some numbers. Conditions on 40 were quite good. FT-100D, trapped dipole, delta loop on 20 with 90W
VK7GN	SOHP	Just a few hours but conditions didn't sound very good from here!
YB1AR	SOLP	I use SD for logging contest
YB3IZK	SOHP	Thank you to all stations in America hope cuagn 73 bye

Oceania	Station	Score
SOHP	NH7A	4,036,032
SOLP	ZL3IO	903,261
SOQRP	NH6AB	11,172
SOUHP	ZM1A (ZL3CW, op)	1,528,230
SOULP	YBØNFL	9,348
SOSB-10	KH7Y	172,068
SOSB-15	DU1EG	1,242
SOSB-20	VK3GK	10,170
SOSB-40	VK4TS	27,720
SOSB-80	KH6QJ	135
MSH	VK3VT	4,602
MSL	KH6RC	962,745

Jackie ZL3CW was Oceania's top SOUHP entry.

Nasran V85ZX (foreground) chose 40 meters for a single-band effort from Brunei.