



ARRL 10 Meter Contest 2017 Preliminary Results

By Scott Tuthill, K7ZO

Through the hard work of K8CC, W9JJ, and NØAX, I am happy to provide the preliminary results of the 2017 ARRL 10 Meter contest.

As expected the 2017 edition was heavily impacted by the continued decline of Solar Cycle 24 and its negative effect on propagation. Total logs submitted dropped 30% from 2016 to 1,794. Total reported QSOs dropped 65% from 2016 to 98,094. To put this in perspective in 2014, nearest the peak of this cycle, over 2 million QSOs were reported. So QSO activity in 2017 was 95% below the best year of this cycle. During the 2014 contest there were several hours where reported QSOs were close to the total reported during the entire 2017 contest! Average QSOs per log submitted were just 55 versus 366 in 2014. All in all, a pretty slow year.

Still though, the 10 meter band showed its true colors with surprises throughout the weekend. For those in North America who fired up their rigs at the start of the contest Friday night locally, they were rewarded with some amazing long duration E-skip openings pretty much across the whole of the U.S. and Canada. Well over 20% of all QSOs during the contest were made in the first five hours. This compares to only around 4% during high-sunspot years. The first few hours were truly a case of “you snooze you lose”.

Additionally, conditions were much better in Europe in 2017 versus 2016 with total reported QSOs from European stations more than doubling. So, there were some opportunities found by those who sought them out.

The Winners

Here are the preliminary high scores worldwide in each of the categories. The full article in the July 2018 *QST* will have high scores organized by the major reporting geographies: US, Canada, Mexico, and DX. Congratulation to these operators and stations!

Category Winners

Single-Operator, Mixed Mode, High Power	
K1WHS (K1BX, op)	142,058
Single-Operator, Mixed Mode, Low Power	
N8II	41,650
Single-Operator, Mixed Mode, QRP	
PY2NY	7,104
Single-Operator, Phone Only, High Power	
PP5JR	96,820
Single-Operator, Phone Only, Low Power	
LU9VD (LU9VEA, op)	10,360
Single-Operator, Phone Only, QRP	
LU4VZ	3,080
Single-Operator, CW Only, High Power	
ZZ4X	93,840
Single-Operator, CW Only, Low Power	
V51YJ	88,200
Single-Operator, CW Only, QRP	
US5VX	4,608
Single-Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, High Power	
DL2ARD	124,188
Single-Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, Low Power	
PY3OZ	117,688
Single-Operator Unlimited, Mixed Mode, QRP	
K4LQ	7,038
Single-Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, High Power	
CV7S (CX7SS, op)	29,880
Single-Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, Low Power	
LU9DDJ	18,090
Single-Operator Unlimited, Phone Only, QRP	
PU2RTO	336
Single-Operator Unlimited, CW Only, High Power	
CX2BR	111,884
Single-Operator Unlimited, CW Only, Low Power	
PP5TU	72,036
Single-Operator Unlimited, CW Only, QRP	
LU7DID	10,080
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	
CW5W	447,120
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	
PY2SR	42,880

Special mention goes out to CW5W as the only repeat winner from 2016. Jorge, CX6VM and his team once again dedicated themselves to the effort and came out on top for the third year in a row.

Club Competition

Congratulations to the club winners, as well. When sunspots aren't plentiful, clubs are important to foster competition and encourage activity. Especially noteworthy is the Yankee Clipper high score total.

Unlimited

Potomac Valley Radio Club	503,252	71 entries
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Medium

Yankee Clipper Contest Club	518,024	43 entries
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Local

Hampden County Radio Association	60,282	6 entries
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The Conditions

To show how tough conditions were in 2017, top category scores averaged just 24% of the winning scores in 2016. Another perspective is that the highest number of states worked was 43 by PT3T. The top number from North America was 42 by KTØK. Many Caribbean stations were completely shut out from working the US and Canada. Only three European stations reported working any states with CT7ACG coming in tops with five. Somewhat better, 12 stations in Japan managed to work stateside but they all just managed to work a single state. And that state was.....Hawaii. None of them actually made it all the way across the pond.

These low-sunspot conditions tend to favor stations in the Southern Hemisphere. They have North-South propagation across the geomagnetic equator to high-population areas in the Northern Hemisphere. These same conditions severely limit long-distance propagation on East-West paths. As a result, 15 of the 20 category winners were from "down south" in PY, LU, CX, and V5. Stations in South America reported having over 6,000 QSOs with stations in North America. Conversely, stations in Europe could only manage 13 QSOs with stations in North America.