



2018 ARRL CW DX Contest

Preliminary Results

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Location, location, location... once again, this axiom points to the Caribbean for an abundance of QSOs. Being near the bottom of this sunspot cycle, the north-south path is an advantage that helps add to the QSO totals. Unfortunately, we still have a few years to go before those big 10- and 15-meter numbers return. However, many stations did manage to conquer the low bands with unexpected multipliers and QSOs. As usual, you needed to hit the right bands at the right times. The following winners have learned the when and where.

The eye-opener this year has to be the top two W/VE finishers in the Single Operator, High Power category. KL9A operated KM7W (remoted to Maine), while N5DX remoted through N2QV in New York. It's hard enough operating a 48-hour marathon. Both operators managed this feat while behind remote hardware & software and miles from the actual stations. The use of remote stations has been around for a few years. Now it has broken the ice for "big-time" wins, expect to see a few more folks trying this out. Congratulations to all.

You'll notice this year the inclusion of Accuracy Index data, popularized by Ward Silver, NØAX, for each of the top finishers. What should stand out is that each of these winners is also at or near the top of the AI Ranking in their category. More detail beyond the ranking will be included with the full writeup.

The Winners

W/VE Category Winners

| | Score | AI Ranking |
|--|-----------|------------|
| <i>Single-op, High Power (SOHP)</i> | | |
| KM7W | 5,368,041 | #2 |
| <i>Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)</i> | | |
| N8II | 1,376,352 | #1 |
| <i>Single Operator, QRP (SOQRP)</i> | | |
| N7IR | 228,480 | #1 |
| <i>Single Operator Unlimited, HP (SOUHP)</i> | | |
| AA3B | 4,880,271 | #1 |
| <i>Single Operator Unlimited, LP (SOULP)</i> | | |
| KS1J | 1,670,256 | #1 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|----|
| <i>Multioperator, Single Transmitter, HP (MSHP)</i> | | |
| W2FU | 4,540,737 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Single Transmitter, LP (MSLP)</i> | | |
| W9SN | 2,879,550 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2X)</i> | | |
| K1LZ | 6,669,744 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Multitransmitter (MM)</i> | | |
| W3LPL | 8,792,364 | #1 |

DX Category Winners

| | Score | AI Ranking |
|---|-----------|------------|
| <i>Single-op, High Power (SOHP)</i> | | |
| TI7W | 6,884,742 | #2 |
| <i>Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP)</i> | | |
| ZF9CW | 4,874,001 | #1 |
| <i>Single Operator, QRP (SOQRP)</i> | | |
| NP4Z | 764,604 | #1 |
| <i>Single Operator Unlimited, HP (SOUHP)</i> | | |
| V26M | 3,864,654 | #2 |
| <i>Single Operator Unlimited, LP (SOULP)</i> | | |
| P4ØW | 4,572,423 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Single Transmitter, HP (MSHP)</i> | | |
| ZF1A | 6,203,790 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Single Transmitter, LP (MSLP)</i> | | |
| V3T | 4,003,548 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Two Transmitter (M2X)</i> | | |
| PJ4A | 8,528,400 | #1 |
| <i>Multioperator, Multitransmitter (MM)</i> | | |
| PJ2T | 8,923,770 | #1 |

Winning Who's Who

Often there are other hands behind the paddle (and keyboard) than indicated by the operating callsign, especially with Caribbean area callsigns. A few of this year's winners without disguise are...

| W/VE Station | Operator | DX Station | Operator |
|--------------|----------|------------|----------|
| KM7W | KL9A | TI7W | N4YDU |
| | | ZF9CW | K5GO |
| | | NP4Z | NP4Z |
| | | V26M | N3AD |
| | | P4ØW | W2GD |

The Records

Not so much this year. Not surprisingly, the lack of sunspots had a direct impact on activity and scores. However, this year did produce over 3,700 CW logs from W/VE and DX entries.

DX Contest Logs

| Category | W/VE Logs | DX Logs |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| SOHP | 219 | 174 |
| SOLP | 354 | 381 |
| SOQRP | 47 | 46 |
| SOUQRP | 11 | 29 |
| SOULP | 282 | 295 |
| SOUHP | 546 | 434 |
| MSHP | 20 | 39 |
| MSLP | 6 | 15 |
| M2X | 17 | 16 |
| MM | 14 | 8 |



Stan, K5GO, operating ZF9CW. [Rita Stockton photo]



VP2MSS operators. L-R Marty, W1MD, Doug, K1DG, Craig, K1QX, Charlie, K1XX, George, K5KG [George Wagner, K5KG photo]

Summary

So, there's good years and bad years, mainly driven by the vagaries of propagation plus the twists and turns of Mr. Murphy. This year seems to be one that can best be characterized as not so good.

Some of the comments from other operators include:

- conditions mediocre, disturbed at times,
- very, very poor band conditions over 40 years operating this contest,
- first night was a real slog, definitely improved by the second night,
- conditions on Saturday better than Sunday.

However, one comment had a much better spin on things

- Conditions sucked; had a great time; be back next year.

So, see you all Feb. 16 and 17 for next year's challenges.

All scores presented in this preliminary report are provisional, pending final review. Watch for the full contest results coming soon to this website. Top scores will be printed in the August issue of QST