

Results, 2011 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

On 160, Mother Nature is always the winner.

Gary Breed, K9AY

As Cycle 24 becomes more active, the past few years of very good conditions on the 160 meter band will become a memory. The first weekend of December 2011 saw a return to more typical conditions on this fascinating band — perhaps discouraging a few casual

operators and DX chasers but simply seen as another challenge by competitive contesters and regular denizens of 160 meters. As K7XC opined on the 3830 score-reporting reflector, “The winners of this event will have earned it.”

Were conditions really that bad? No, they weren’t horrible, just not as good as during the past few years of exceptionally low solar activity. Those great conditions attracted many newcomers to Top Band. There were 1120 logs submitted, a level of participation that would have been an all-time record just 5 years ago. In fact, many operators noted that the high activity made the contest fun in spite of the tougher conditions.

Western US/VE

Although there was one western station among the Top Ten — perennial QRP competitor Gary, N7IR who managed a sixth place finish from AZ — things were tough in the Old West. “No DX” was a common complaint but it was the propagation path between the eastern and western portions of North America that was the most notable

difficulty, frustrating participants at both ends of the continent.

In the Midwest

The Top Ten list suggests that the middle of the continent was a good place to be! Glenn, W0GJ, repeated as the QRP winner, with three other Upper Midwest stations also among the top QRP finishers. The top six Low Power scorers were away from the East Coast, most of them Midwesterners. In High Power, Craig, K9CT, managed eighth place from Illinois. Toni, N0NI, directed his Multioperator, High Power station to the seventh place spot in that category.

South by Southeast

Another good place to operate from was below the Mason-Dixon Line. Victor, N8OO, topped the Low Power list from Louisiana and the operators at Tom’s, W8JJ, station in Georgia won Multioperator, High Power wall decoration. Several other excellent performances came from Texas, Florida and Kentucky. Together with the Midwesterners, it seems that a central or south-central location could make a good

Top Ten		
W/VE	DX	
Single Operator, QRP		
W0GJ 101,106	OK1CZ 50	
K5RX 93,755	IV3AOL 2	
W3TS 55,284	M16GT 2	
VE3MGY 47,628		
N9NE 46,872	Single Operator, Low Power	
N7IR 44,132	YN2CC 23,868	
N0UR 41,211	VP5CW	
N4AX 37,960	(W5CW, op) 21,068	
K4CNW 37,314	F6DDR 3,060	
AA1CA 37,083	SP5CJY 1,156	
	IK0XBX 874	
Single Operator, Low Power		
N8OO 207,744	UA2FL 768	
KU1CW 182,070	DL7UMK 560	
N0IM 174,262	LZ2ZG 476	
K8FH 173,788	JA1BJI 468	
NE9U 172,215	DL8UKE 442	
K4FT 165,396		
N2KW 156,420	Single Operator, High Power	
W2TZ 152,240	ZF2AH 104,976	
WB8JUI 150,320	CE1/K7CA 65,208	
K0TI 148,149	XE2S 42,210	
	P40TA	
Single Operator, High Power		
VY2ZM 539,000	(K6TA, op) 41,942	
K8PO 465,555	OK2W 18,800	
VE3EJ 461,648	DF2PY 8,892	
K1DG 452,628	OM2VL 8,480	
K3ZM 426,377	OK1FPS 7,752	
AA1K 374,490	OL0A	
WF2W 362,520	(OK1CZ, op) 7,280	
K9CT 326,300	JR5JAQ 7,232	
K5NA 314,895		
W5MX 309,838	Multioperator, Low Power	
	SP5CJQ 1,520	
Multioperator, Low Power		
VE2OJ 209,035	ON9CC 630	
K1VW 179,010	OK2BFN 220	
WJ9B 168,004	JA7YCQ 24	
K0TV 167,130	XU7ACY 18	
K3PA 99,549	JA1YNE 8	
W2CCC 65,238		
N0HJZ 63,516	Multioperator, High Power	
K2DB 57,680	PJ2T 143,364	
K2RS 53,244	VP2MWG 141,960	
W0ANT 46,152	OL7M 33,700	
	ON4WW 8,256	
Multioperator, High Power		
W8JJ 538,750	DF2UU 6,536	
K1LZ 456,692	JA3YBK 6,420	
W2GD 438,495	RL3A 4,080	
N3UA 358,190	DL7CX 4,030	
N1LN 317,196	F5IN 3,894	
K3WW 311,541	F4DNW 3,600	
N0NI 304,750		
NX5M 297,324		
W3UA 237,462		
KC4D 208,472		



Like many portable operations, Jim’s, K6EI, antenna wiring lash-up wasn’t pretty but it worked. This is the base of his temporary 70 foot inverted L with 52 radials and an SGC-237 remote tuner. Jim worked 275 stations and 58 multipliers to lead the Pacific Division in the Single Operator, QRP category. [Courtesy Jim Peterson, K6EI]

score, especially for Low Power and QRP entries.

Northeast Notes

In the Single Operator, High Power and Multioperator categories it usually helps to be closer to the multipliers and contacts from Europe. A great example is Jeff, K1ZM, who operated from his Prince Edward Island station, VY2ZM, for another Single Operator win. The top seven Single Operators and the second through sixth place Multioperator scores were from W1, 2, 3 and eastern Canada. We can't give DX all the credit, though — these high scoring stations had very high US/VE contact totals with a few extra DX multipliers giving them the winning edge.

From the DX Side

In the Caribbean, the Multioperator crew at PJ2T edged out the gang at VP2MWG for the top DX score in any category. With a Single Operator, High Power entry, Joe, ZF2AH, gave out the ZF multiplier to 741 US/VE operators, reaching the top of his class. He was followed by Al, CE1/K7CA, who made 433 contacts from the Southern Hemisphere — with a remarkable multiplier total of 76 sections. Multioperator station OL7M was the most successful European operation, with Single Operator, JR5JAQ, achieving the best result from Asia.

We get a different view from each of these geographical areas. That's the joy of a worldwide hobby! Plus, it's why the results at the regional, division or section level may be more fun for most participants. Did you beat your buddy over in the next state? How did your station and operating skills compare with the other competitors in your part of North America? Did you beat (or at least come close) to a personal best or even a section record?

The New Multioperator, Low Power Category

Most ARRL contests have added Low Power as an entry option for Multioperator stations. This category allows a Low Power entry using spotting or CW Skimmer software or true multiham teams to operate at low power. The inaugural winner in this new category is VE2OJ for the first #1 certificate. Not far behind were K1VW, WJ9B and KØTV with scores that were separated by just a few percent. With 77 entries, Multioperator, Low Power represented 7% of the total entries.

Club Competition

Two heavyweights submitted a nearly equal number of logs but The Potomac Valley Radio Club outscored the Minnesota Wireless Association in the Unlimited category. The race was very close in the Medium category as the Frankford Radio Club prevailed by just a couple of medium-sized scores over the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. Farther south, the Central Virginia

Affiliated Club Competition		
	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	4,621,675	71
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,791,817	69
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	3,196,142	40
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	3,115,975	49
Society of Midwest Contesters	2,218,827	45
Contest Club Ontario	1,632,298	27
Tennessee Contest Group	1,072,037	24
South East Contest Club	941,474	7
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	878,890	8
Mad River Radio Club	738,740	14
Alabama Contest Group	691,370	14
Maritime Contest Club	677,427	11
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	654,572	9
Northern California Contest Club	565,357	24
Florida Contest Group	561,947	15
Kentucky Contest Group	499,362	3
Western New York DX Assn	410,646	8
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	410,042	17
Contest Group Du Quebec	360,008	4
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	355,988	7
North Texas Contest Club	317,988	8
CTRI Contest Group	279,654	5
Southern California Contest Club	268,758	13
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	236,175	9
Western Washington DX Club	207,249	8
Northern Rockies DX Association	179,676	4
Saskatchewan Contest Club	122,645	3
Willamette Valley DX Club	119,636	7
Carolina DX Association	58,028	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	697,053	7
Kansas City DX Club	591,311	4
Delara Contest Team	495,947	8
New Mexico Big River Contesters	220,613	5
Bristol (TN) ARC	166,273	8
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	161,059	4
Sterling Park ARC	156,515	3
West Park Radiops	69,075	5
Spokane DX Association	61,580	4
Low Country Contest Club	38,453	3
Midland ARC	26,219	3

For a collection of comments directly from the contest operators, check out the online version of the article at arrl.org/contest-results-articles

Contest Club took the honors in the Local category. It looks like the East Coast made for some great club activity!

Closing Time

Among the entrants who posted to the ARRL Soapbox website (www.arrl.org/soapbox) and the various reflectors were many hams who had given 160 meters their first try. This has been a continuing trend over the past 15 years or so as other countries around the world introduced or expanded 160 meter operating privileges.

Do you want to know more about 160 meter contests? The Club Competition listing is the place to start. As with any special interest part of our great hobby, contests are encouraged and supported by local and regional clubs. Their experienced operators are great Elmers. Up-and-coming operators like you can benefit from their experience to help build better stations and hone their skills. So join in the conversation with these groups and be better prepared next December when long,

Division Winners by Category		
Single Operator, QRP		
Atlantic	W3TS	55,284
Central	N9NE	46,872
Dakota	W0GJ	101,106
Delta	N4IR	20,884
Great Lakes	N8BB	28,428
Hudson	W2DPT	16,512
Midwest	N0SM	29,810
New England	AA1CA	37,083
Northwestern	W7DRA	3,750
Pacific	K6EI	30,894
Roanoke	K4CNW	37,314
Rocky Mountain	W5GZ	4,983
Southeastern	N4AX	37,960
Southwestern	N7IR	44,132
West Gulf	K5RX	93,755
Canada	VE3MGY	47,628
Single Operator, Low Power		
Atlantic	W2TZ	152,240
Central	NE9U	172,215
Dakota	N0IM	174,262
Delta	N8OO	207,744
Great Lakes	K8FH	173,788
Hudson	K2UF	90,650
Midwest	KU1CW	182,070
New England	N2KW	156,420
Northwestern	W7YAQ	67,040
Pacific	N6RK	75,306
Roanoke	K2AV	115,559
Rocky Mountain	W0DLE	109,263
Southeastern	K4CWW	96,876
Southwestern	W7RH	75,573
West Gulf	W5RYA	84,931
Canada	VE3OSZ	76,858
Single Operator, High Power		
Atlantic	AA1K	374,490
Central	K9CT	326,300
Dakota	K9DU	99,176
Delta	W5SR (N5ECT, op)	265,776
Great Lakes	W5MX	309,838
Hudson	N2ED	122,655
Midwest	N0TT	281,214
New England	K8PO	465,555
Northwestern	N9RV	121,512
Pacific	KF6T	109,188
Roanoke	K3ZM	426,377
Rocky Mountain	K0RF (W0UA, op)	264,384
Southeastern	N4PN	206,112
Southwestern	N6MA	96,564
West Gulf	K5NA	314,895
Canada	VY2ZM	539,000
Multioperator, High Power		
Atlantic	W2GD	438,495
Central	W9IU	177,039
Dakota	K0KX	131,192
Delta	N4DW	81,744
Great Lakes	N8TR	116,109
Hudson	N1EU	131,677
Midwest	N0NI	304,750
New England	K1LZ	456,692
Northwestern	KG7H	133,280
Pacific	KH6LC	70,882
Roanoke	N3UA	358,190
Rocky Mountain	K0DU	197,560
Southeastern	W8JI	538,750
Southwestern	N6SS	111,542
West Gulf	NX5M	297,324
Canada	VE3RZ	176,626
Multioperator, Low Power		
Atlantic	W2GCC	65,238
Central	WE9R	38,208
Dakota	N0HJZ	63,516
Great Lakes	N9KY	440
Hudson	K12P	5,280
Midwest	K3PA	99,549
New England	K1VW	179,010
Northwestern	W0TV	3,072
Pacific	K9YC	4,080
Roanoke	N4ZR	20,691
Rocky Mountain	W0ANT	46,152
Southeastern	WJ9B	168,004
Southwestern	N7MAL	16,168
West Gulf	KN8KAZ	9,810
Canada	VE2OJ	209,035

cold nights lure you into the shack for some Top Band fun!

Don't miss the starting gun! The ARRL 160 Meter Contest starts at 2200 UTC Friday; in 2012, that means the contest begins on November 30.