

2013 ARRL DX Phone Results

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

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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 February 25 and again on February 28. 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 2 and to an even more relaxed 7 on March 3, the damage had been done!

Paths from the US 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 40 meter run into USA, 44 states in three and a half hours was fantastic.”



How often does a rookie place in the Top Ten in the first time out? Brad, K7EUG, operating at NP2N is obviously a quick study — he placed #10 in SOHP! [George Cutsogeorge, W2VJN, photo]

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 soapbox comments from W and VE included the word “Good” or “Great” and 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.

Record Participation

When the e-mail 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. 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. This shows the value of large worldwide “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 (www.arri.org/lotw) and deepen our ham radio database of point-to-point communications on the ham bands!

It was definitely not all doom and gloom, even

Top Ten Golden Logs	
Call	QSOs
OG6N	986
EA1CBX	513
OM3GI	430
F5LIW	403
HB9AUS	401
K1HT	401
OK6Y (OK2PTZ, op)	363
WA6FGV	362
KB0EO	345
OH2XX	333

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 testers.

On the High Bands

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 was not attainable this year as noted by none other than Martti, OH2BH, operating at CR1Z: “As it was considered last year to break the 10 meter EU record we went with full force on it after great success on CW part. But it was not to be.”

The winning 15 meter score of 527,904 was certainly competitive with 2012’s 612,000, as well. Definitely the bands were not open everywhere for everybody at the same time. Here are two typical comments:

KD4ACG, West Central Florida: “I’d call it a successful weekend, even without an Asian, Pacific or Oceania contact.” K7ACZ, 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.

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 them JUMP like they did this weekend.” Contests just seem to make their own propagation, don’t they? It

W/VE Single Operator Region Leaders

Boxes list call sign, score, and power (Q = QRP, LP = Low Power, HP = High Power).

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario East, Ontario North, Ontario South and Greater Toronto A)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)		
VY2ZM	5,640,480	HP	N5DX	4,201,245	HP	VE3EJ	5,314,140	HP	K5TR	2,389,146	HP	W6YI	1,565,748	HP
W2RE	4,938,558	HP	AD4Z	2,882,316	HP	VB3E			NR5M	2,222,841	HP	K5RR	1,001,286	HP
VY2TT (K6LA, op)	4,374,360	HP	K1TO	2,721,420	HP	(VE3AT, op)	5,105,964	HP	K5RX	1,492,260	HP	K6XX	813,564	HP
NC11 (K9PW, op)	3,695,913	HP	K4AB	2,662,200	HP	W9RE	3,733,776	HP	K7KU			WA7LT	497,652	HP
K1ZR	3,542,121	HP	K4JPD (N4OO, op)	2,045,406	HP	K8GL	1,504,485	HP	(K0KR, op)	897,444	HP	KZ1W	379,665	HP
N1UR	2,801,970	LP	WA1S	599,238	LP	N8BJQ	1,281,630	HP	K0CN	515,844	HP	N6RV	473,526	LP
N1PGA	1,634,256	LP	K4DMR	478,956	LP	NA8V	1,328,250	LP	N5AW	1,147,032	LP	K7ACZ	283,500	LP
KE3X	706,680	LP	W4FT	386,073	LP	N4TZ	1,297,125	LP	WD5K	621,621	LP	VE6EX	240,588	LP
WA2JQK	650,025	LP	K4NC	328,440	LP	KD9MS	632,388	LP	W5GFI	383,640	LP	AA6K	199,125	LP
W2TF	586,686	LP	NR3X	319,716	LP	VE3NB	556,830	LP	WB0TSR	218,022	LP	N7IR	194,040	LP
N1TM	402,555	Q	KP4KOE	44,541	LP	VE3BR	507,756	LP	W0ETT	203,988	LP	W6QU		
W2ID	130,824	Q	KS4X	188,877	Q	KT8K	164,268	Q	N0KE	239,220	Q	(W8QZA, op)	92,916	Q
W2WGK	101,088	Q	NT4TS	179,550	Q	A19K	22,119	Q	ND0C	225,345	Q	N6HI	6,072	Q
W1TW	23,976	Q	N4ZAK	35,880	Q	VA3RKM	3,330	Q	K0OU	52,200	Q	KK7VL	1,254	Q
W1CEK	2,808	Q	K3TW	22,176	Q	K8DRT	765	Q	KK0Q	50,100	Q			
			KJ4FUU	3,219	Q	KD2BGM	75	Q	N0UR	18,972	Q			

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, five 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 closed 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 million points, N1BA at 1.63 million and N5DO at 1.0 million. I sense that this category record will not last long as the low power categories are attracting more interest with every contest.

Similar interest is beginning to be shown in the Single Op Unlimited, Low Power category outside W/VE as Robert W5AJ, operating as P40P, scored a whopping 4.63 million points to more than double PY1NX's previous all-time record of 2.09 million points. This is Robert's second category win in a row, having triumphed in SOLP as P40V in 2012.

Twenty-seven new records were set in 2013, 18 of which were in either in SOULP or MSL. Twelve 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.

Are you looking for some low hanging fruit to pick? All of the ARRL contest records are available online at www.arrl.org/ **contest-records**. There is but one lonely W/VE record remaining unclaimed for 2014 — the ninth district Multi-Single Low Power category. Hint, hint! There is nothing to whet the competitive edge

like an evening with the record book!

Speaking of whetting an edge, some records got a mighty close shave this year. 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 un-bloodied.

Keeping the String Alive

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?

The two W/VE stations that keep on keepin' on are N1UR with the longest winning streak of all — five #1 finishes in SOLP — and K3LR with a fourth 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. On the DX side, W2SC may not have set a new record from 8P5A but Tom did push his SOHP win streak to four and we are especially pleased to welcome a new Top Band Top Gun in Herb, KV4FZ, with a third win on our MF contest band.

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.

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

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

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 (Non-assisted)

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 (Assisted)

P40P (W5AJ, op)	SOUHP	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

HK1NA	MM	14,472	0.7	14.091
PJ4G	M2	12,140	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

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Category

	Score	Entries
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	280,011,087	214
Frankford Radio Club	241,516,347	150
Potomac Valley Radio Club	198,552,147	192
Northern California Contest Club	63,410,340	75
Society of Midwest Contesters	62,412,156	103
Contest Club Ontario	59,330,229	66
Florida Contest Group	58,329,390	103
Minnesota Wireless Assn	51,469,086	105
Tennessee Contest Group	29,197,617	54
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	27,290,112	67

Medium Category

North Coast Contesters	81,919,140	31
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	33,664,590	37
Mad River Radio Club	28,726,794	32
Carolina DX Association	26,958,444	49
South East Contest Club	22,052,151	28
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	21,941,415	19
Alabama Contest Group	20,221,701	34
Southern California Contest Club	19,243,050	39
DFW Contest Group	18,248,865	37
Georgia Contest Group	16,150,836	18
Maritime Contest Club	15,393,759	19
Willamette Valley DX Club	14,239,938	33
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	12,914,817	15
Central Virginia Contest Club	10,234,386	19
Western New York DX Assn	9,888,888	16
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	9,732,741	19
North Texas Contest Club	8,396,985	7
Contest Group Du Quebec	7,940,817	17
CTRI Contest Group	6,417,783	16
ORCA DX And Contest Club	6,411,393	19
Louisiana Contest Club	6,115,764	11
Northern Rockies DX Association	5,913,078	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	5,504,574	25
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	5,432,832	20
Western Washington DX Club	5,369,343	29
Utah DX Assn	4,343,868	19
Bristol (TN) ARC	4,195,245	17
Delara Contest Team	3,979,371	15
Iowa DX and Contest Club	3,494,478	5
Spokane DX Association	2,927,412	19
Portage County Amateur Radio	1,291,608	11
West Park Radiops	680,496	18
Kentucky Contest Group	638,031	4
Radio Club of Redmond	403,212	6

Local Category

Southwest Ohio DX Assn	5,330,160	5
Hilltop Transmitting Assn	3,486,843	5
Madison DX Club	2,913,174	6
Saskatchewan Contest Club	2,486,769	9
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	2,178,405	7
New Mexico Big River Contesters	2,166,405	3
Kansas City Contest Club	2,070,795	10
Bergen ARA	1,834,818	9
Alberta Clippers	1,707,510	4
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	1,659,984	5
Metro DX Club	1,146,483	10
Meriden ARC	1,111,752	6
San Diego DX Club	1,084,422	4
Northern Arizona DX Assn	948,852	5
599 DX Association	876,645	4
Brazos Valley ARC	822,300	8
Southern California DX Club	794,394	4
Derby City DX Association	755,523	3
Montachusett ARA	711,441	3
West Park Radiops	680,496	18
Kentucky Contest Group	638,031	4
Sterling Park ARC	598,482	7
Oakland County Amateur Radio	448,440	3
Wireless Association of South Hills	421,833	5
Kansas City DX Club	419,409	5
Heartland DX Association	418,716	3
Vienna Wireless Society	417,696	4
Radio Club of Redmond	403,212	6
Milford (OH) ARC	387,828	7
Great South Bay ARC	383,994	5
Badger Contesters	370,260	4
Low Country Contest Club	330,480	5
Fort Wayne Radio Club	282,021	5
Skyview Radio Society	270,642	3
Southeastern DX Club	251,169	3
South Jersey DX Assn	223,398	4
QSY Society	178,074	3
Wireless Society of Southern Maine	160,920	3
Gloucester Co ARC	135,699	4
10-70 Repeater Assn	112,353	3
Blue Ridge ARC	107,784	4
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club	87,003	4
Albuquerque DX Assn	85,431	3
South Jersey Radio Assn	83,025	4
Fox River Radio League	82,113	3
Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub	79,413	3
Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association	56,436	3
Alexandria Radio Club	53,511	4
Falmouth ARA	2,928	4

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.

Fifteen 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 US and Canada, the W3LPL MM crew pulled in 2434 contacts on 15 meters and 1197 on 10 while W3LPL’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 recorded this year, and the K3LR ops on 20 and 15 meters worked 149 and 143 DXCC entities during their shifts, respectively.

As the chart of W/V/E single op categories shows, 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.

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, and 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 off, 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 a letter (or two) wrong so don’t trust that spotted call unless you don’t mind QSO point penalties for invalid contacts. Listen, listen, listen...

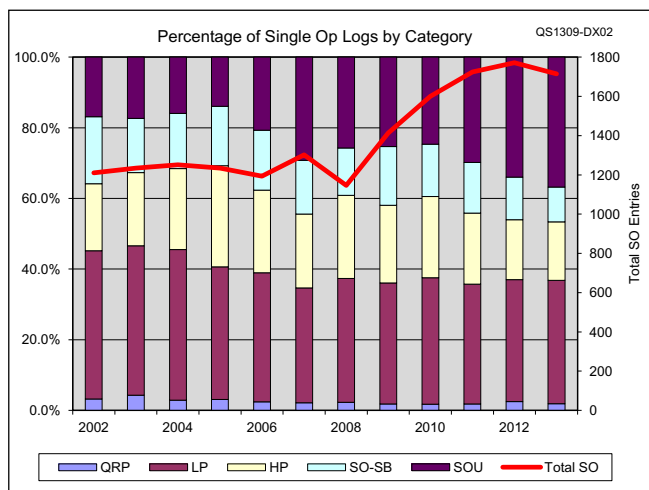
The second issue is that stations on the DX side need to give their call signs frequently enough that callers don’t have to guess at it. Yes, not ID-ing makes your rate higher but at the expense of everybody else’s error rate. That’s just poor sportsmanship! Some of the top stations ID with every QSO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

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, exemplifies this approach by deciding to have some fun behind the wheel, reporting that he “*Operated [the] contest while mobile on 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 chart shows how many 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!

ARRL Affiliated Club Competition

Little Pistols and the casual operators also have a delightfully and mutually beneficial relationship with their clubs. At all levels, from the mass mayhem of the annual YCCC vs PVRC vs FRC Unlimited Club challenges to a local bragging rights challenge in the Local Club listings, making a group effort is fun and motivating. 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



The trend in Single Operator logs away from the SOHP and SOSB categories to SOU continues with SOU the most popular this year for the first time.

seems pretty healthy. 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!

Let's start with the Local Club category. 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 more than 4 and there were 194 total logs submitted among 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. Making a big charge, though, was the Mad River Contest Club that added ½ 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 gentlemen... 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 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!

Accuracy

Why is it that we have radio contests, anyway? Certainly, they are fun, but I don't see anything in the FCC's 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 good time. A crucial part of contesting and training

is accuracy when communicating. Thus, it is just as important to note and reward high accuracy as it is a high score.

The top five Accuracy Indexes are shown in the table for SOHP/LP, SOUHP/LP, MO stations. (See the online article for an explanation of the index.) 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!

DXing

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 top DX multiplier totals were mostly

Continental Leaders					
Continent	Call	Score	Continent	Call	Score
Africa			North America		
Single Operator High Power	EF8U (IK1HJS, op)	3,313,542	Single Operator High Power	8P5A (W2SC, op)	9,277,644
Single Operator Low Power	EF8O (EA8OM, op)	39,738	Single Operator Low Power	J88DR (G3TBK, op)	3,817,614
Single Operator QRP	J28AA (E70A, op)	900	Single Operator QRP	CO2CW	152,409
Single Operator Assisted, High Power	EA8CNB	74,088	Single Operator Assisted, High Power	XE1OGG	585,144
Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	EA8BZH	56,604	Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	KP2/K0BBC	1,524,507
Single Operator 40 Meters	EA8CNR	1,581	Single Operator 160 Meters	KV4FZ	51,183
Single Operator 15 Meters	CT3BD	121,278	Single Operator 80 Meters	KP4KE	165,480
Single Operator 10 Meters	6V7S (RK4FF, op)	307,803	Single Operator 20 Meters	KP2MM (N2TTA, op)	408,516
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	EF8R	2,593,410	Single Operator 15 Meters	ZF2AH	631,260
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	ZS6WN	173,628	Single Operator 10 Meters	FM5BH	412,056
Asia			Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	VP5H	7,703,358
Single Operator High Power	JA0JHA	888,282	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	VP9I	4,147,266
Single Operator Low Power	JH4UYB	264,576	Multioperator, Two Transmitters	T18M	6,618,240
Single Operator QRP	JR4DAH	21,306	Multioperator, Multi Transmitters	C6ANM	5,954,382
Single Operator Assisted, High Power	JF2QNM	136,998	Oceania		
Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	8N1TW (JM1UWB, op)	88,164	Single Operator High Power	NH7A	4,036,032
Single Operator 80 Meters	JE1SPY	399	Single Operator Low Power	ZL3IO	903,261
Single Operator 40 Meters	JA1XMS	33,462	Single Operator QRP	NH6AB	11,172
Single Operator 20 Meters	J11LET	38,364	Single Operator Assisted, High Power	ZM1A (ZL3CW, op)	1,528,230
Single Operator 15 Meters	JR1CBC	168,780	Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	YB0NFL	9,348
Single Operator 10 Meters	JF1SQC	726	Single Operator 80 Meters	KH6QJ	135
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	JA8RWU	591,126	Single Operator 40 Meters	VK4TS	27,720
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	RK0AWQ	48	Single Operator 20 Meters	VK3GK	10,170
Multioperator, Two Transmitters	JA1YPA	97,170	Single Operator 15 Meters	DU1EG	1,242
Multioperator, Multi Transmitters	JA3YBK	1,467,144	Single Operator 10 Meters	KH7Y	172,068
Europe			Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	VK3VT	4,602
Single Operator High Power	CR2X (ES2RR, op)	6,890,328	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	KH6RC	962,745
Single Operator Low Power	EI9HX	1,262,202	South America		
Single Operator QRP	F5BEG	159,894	Single Operator High Power	P49Y (A6GY, op)	7,677,195
Single Operator Assisted, High Power	EB3CW	2,586,708	Single Operator Low Power	LO7H (LU7HW, op)	716,568
Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	TM1E (F1JRD, op)	832,842	Single Operator QRP	YW2LV (YV5YMA, op)	1,826,496
Single Operator 160 Meters	OK1W	288	Single Operator Assisted, High Power	CE3CT	3,691,776
Single Operator 80 Meters	GM3PPG (G4BYB, op)	125,424	Single Operator Assisted, Low Power	P40P (W5AJ, op)	4,630,209
Single Operator 40 Meters	CQ8X (OH8NC, op)	299,040	Single Operator 160 Meters	LU2DVI	27
Single Operator 20 Meters	OH8X (OH6UM, op)	396,540	Single Operator 20 Meters	PW5G (PP5WG, op)	391,254
Single Operator 15 Meters	TM0T (TU5KG, op)	385,398	Single Operator 15 Meters	FY5KE (F1HAR, op)	673,074
Single Operator 10 Meters	CR1Z (OH2BH, op)	361,080	Single Operator 10 Meters	TO1A (F5HRY, op)	557,784
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	EI7M	5,301,000	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power	PJ2T	8,271,822
Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	GT8IOM	323,439	Multioperator, Single Transmitter, Low Power	PW1A	1,203,270
Multioperator, Two Transmitters	TM6M	7,516,740	Multioperator, Two Transmitters	PJ4G	12,375,231
Multioperator, Multi Transmitters	9A1A	5,795,712	Multioperator, Multi Transmitters	HK1NA	15,278,994

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to announce the winners of a sponsored ARRL DX Phone plaque. The ARRL wishes to thank the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible. Unsponsored plaques may be purchased by the plaque winner. If you wish to purchase an unsponsored plaque or order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Mike DeChristopher, N1TA, at 860-594-0232 or by e-mail at n1ta@arrl.org. The cost for plaques is \$75 and includes shipping.

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power Phone	Frankford Radio Club	VY2ZM
W/VE 1.8 MHz Phone	Butch Greve, W9EWC Memorial	W2MF
W/VE 3.5 MHz Phone	Jeffrey Briggs, VY2ZM	W1XX
W/VE 7 MHz Phone	Charles Wooten, NF4A	W7WA
W/VE 21 MHz Phone	Northern Illinois DX Association	NU6S
W/VE 28 MHz Phone	Ralph Fontaine AF7DX	W3BGN
W/VE Single Operator QRP Phone	Jeffrey Briggs, K1ZM	N1TM
W/VE Single Operator Assisted, High Power Phone	Pete Carter, K3VW Memorial	K3VWV
W/VE Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power Phone	Steve Adams, K4RF	W2PV
World Single Operator High Power Phone	North Jersey DX Association	8P5A (W2SC, op)
World 1.8 MHz Phone	Fred Race, W8FR, In Memory of ZL2BT	KV4FZ
World 7 MHz Phone	Jim Rafferty, N6RJ Memorial — Cayman ARS	YY4DNN
World 14 MHz Phone	Don Wallace, W6AM, Memorial Award	KP2MM (N2TTA, op)
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
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter, High Power Phone	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	JAR8WU
North America Multioperator Single Transmitter, High Power Phone	Nick Lash, K9KLR	VP5H
World Multioperator Two Transmitters Phone	W6NL and K6BL	PJ4G
W/VE Single Operator High Power Combined Score	National Contest Journal	VY2TT (K6LA, op)
W/VE Single Operator Low Power Combined Score	In Memory of Fred Gern, K2FR — Rochester DX Association, Inc.	N1UR
Japan Single Operator Low Power Phone	Western Washington DX Club	JH4UYB
Seventh Call Area Single Operator High Power Phone	Willamette Valley DX Club	K5RR
World Multioperator Unlimited Phone	Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ	HK1NA
World Single Operator Low Power Combined Score	C. Sharp, K5DX Memorial by the Texas DX Society	J88DR (G3TBK, op)
Canada Single Operator Low Power Phone	Contest Club Ontario	VE3NB



Bob Raymond, WA1Z, teamed up with Kurt Pauer, W6PH (not shown), as the two contest veterans took control of the MSL category as VP9I for a win from VP9GE's fine Bermuda station. [Kurt Pauer, W6PH, photo]

Phone and CW contests from Europe by OH2BH.

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 apps for devices running the Android operating system. Go to your online app store and search for N7WA.

Wrapping It All Up

As this article goes to press, there are conflicting predictions about the future of Solar 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 log what you hear.

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. In particular, I appreciate the support of the numerous volunteers who have contributed to the online write-ups with sidebars and regional analysis. Don't forget to say "Thanks!" to them and to any of the log checkers, robot wranglers and certificate printers who do all the paddling under the water where you can't see it!

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!

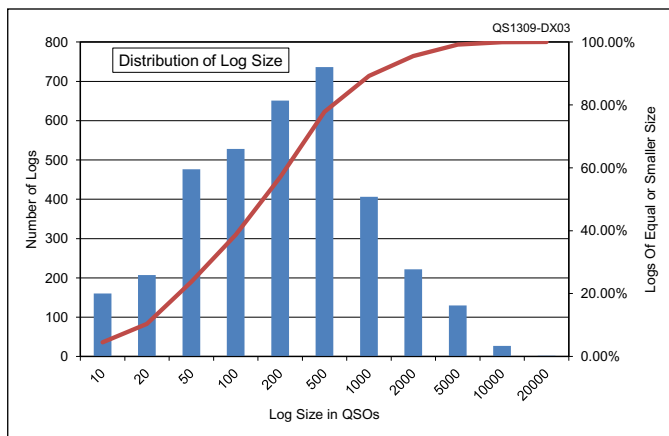
Extended Results

Look to the online extended version of these results (www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles) for more commentary and the following features:

- The story of the first fully-remote Multi-Multi at K4VV

- A complete table of Top Ten boxes since 2002
- Changes in QSOs and multipliers compared to the halcyon year of 2002
- More detail about how category entry levels change from year to year
- Collected soapbox comments from W/VE and DX logs

Volunteer authors have created a complete set of division, regional and continental write-ups to take a close look at the competition in your area, including the Caribbean's annual conflagration of contesting, plus a look at both the



57% of all logs have 200 or fewer QSOs, making up the majority of all contest entries and reinforcing how important it is that participation from modest stations and part time operators remain healthy!