

Contest Soapbox

2002 IARU HF World Championships

34 Soapbox entries available

K0RH -- Nov 20, 2002 22:56 ET

July just isn't the best time of the year for a DX contest from south central Kansas. However, Jim K0RH (ex KK0SS, K0WUI) had a new call to try out and with a drought in progress, the threat of thunderstorms was greatly reduced.

The operator list for K0RH was Jim K0RH, Ken W0NXS, and myself, Nate N0NB. Since this is a mixed mode contest we each had our own specialties to contribute. Jim is a phone operator, Ken operates CW and I oscillated back and forth although by late in the contest I was preferring the steady run on CW to the hollering on phone!

As for the bands, they were generally in good shape especially lacking aurora effects. We kept busy, but didn't set the world on fire. However, SA and AF were virtually absent! Where was LU and PY? We missed a lot of points with so few of our SA friends in this 'test.

W0NXS was unable to show up until about 2200z so our CW effort got a late start, but Ken was able to quickly make up for lost time.

The early morning hours likely caused Yours Truly to commit at least one band violation jumping from 80 Phone to 80 CW a bit too soon. But, that's how it goes at 0815z!

Murphy stayed away as we had no equipment failures or other malfunctions. Also, is it me or have the bands really become more civilized during the contests the past several years? Sure, the QRM is heavy at times, but I found courtesy to be at an all-time high.

IARU is a fun contest and we look forward to many more. Our final tally of 1282 Q's is a mark we can shoot for in the coming years. -- *N0NB*

KK1L -- Sep 25, 2002 10:55 ET

I picked a great contest to try SO2R for the first time. I would have surely fallen asleep had it not been for the second radio! Yikes who turned off the ionosphere?

I thought I would use the second rig barefoot...just an all band vertical + poor band conditions = bad idea! There was a perfectly fine (borrowed for ARRL DX) ACOM1000 still sitting on the

shelf. It took five minutes to set up and it took up a good chunk of desk space, but that was a real bonus.

The SO2R controller I built from scratch really worked well. I never REALLY knew how long a CQ was until Saturday! Man I don't know what I am going to do when I only have one radio to use. I ended up with 1092 Qs on the run radio and 221 on the second.

I need to clear my conscience and apologize for my behavior on early Sunday morning on 20m. I was up near the top of the band and was definitely not on my best behavior. I could blame being really tired (which I was an am now as I write this at midnight with only 4 hours sleep this 48), but that is no excuse for being rude. I don't know if I was a total jerk, but I feel bad about it. So if the contesteer who I was "being hard to play with" reads this please accept my apology.

73 es God bless de KK1L...ron rossi <>< -- *KK1L*

VK2CZ -- Sep 17, 2002 20:26 ET



My approach in contests

Well I didn't even get close to my IARU SSB record in VK this year, still had antenna issues with broken elements on 15/10m. A local 80m VK contest within the IARU time period helped out with a couple of band/zones too. Here is a summary of zones worked:

ZONE 2 3 6 7 8 9 11 14 16 18 27 28 29 30 31 34
36 37 44 45 50 54 55 58 59 60 61 63 64 -- *VK2CZ*

J75KG -- Aug 26, 2002 10:04 ET



This was our third IARU contest from J75KG. This year's operation was by George, J75KG/K5KG and Fred, J79MM/NA2U. We used a two radio setup with the second radio (FT890) being used to spot mults for the main station (IC756ProII/AL572). The two rigs' laptops were networked, and WriteLog was used for logging. Antennas were a C3@20' plus full wave loops on 40 and 80.

The 10-day operation went off without a hitch, thanks in part to assistance from Lambert,

George J75KG/K5KG - Fred J79MM/NA2U



Fred, a happy puppy on his first DX operation

J73LC, our resident prime-minister-of-how-to-get-things-done-in-an-island-way! The most memorable happenings were finding a very angry land crab with my toe, and a experiencing a violent wind-rain-thunder-lightning storm during the wee hours of the contest. We had to shut down due to the lightning for about an hour. The crab met his Maker!

Qsls for J75KG go to Steve, KU9C, to whom we are forever grateful for his efforts in keeping the wall paper moving.

Qsls for J79MM go directly to Fred, NA2U.
-- K5KG



Fred NA2U - Lambert J73LC - George K5KG



Atlantic Ocean to the South East from the shack.



Atlantic Ocean to the East. Palm tree on left was one of three supports for 80 meter full-wave loop.



C3@20' - QTH in background

KI7WX -- Aug 15, 2002 21:34 ET

Fantastic condx on both 20 and 40 meters. Merely intended to get on to work a few OJs and ended up operating until sunrise. Photo shows the 4/4 20M array and 2 element 40 meter yagi.
-- KI7WX



3DA0CF -- Aug 15, 2002 18:44 ET

Had a great time working the contest from Swaziland. I hope to be back there next year with at least one more operator from Here in Houston. Then will have someone working CW while I do phone.

Antenna's were a 3el triband TH3 mounted on a 60 foot crank up tower which is on a trailer. Only other antenna was a 40 meter dipole mounted as a sloper off the tower. The bands were not very good so my numbers were not great. Had 301 QSO's 42 zones and 25 HQ Stations. For a total of 92,795 points. If the bands had beed better would have had twice the number. Look for us next year from Swaziland.

Frosty K5LBU/3DA0CF -- *K5LBU*

LX0HQ -- Aug 15, 2002 08:19 ET

have a look at the LX0HQ site in IARU contest 2002

http://www.qsl.net/lx5a/lx0hq_in_the_iaru.htm

73 de LX1KQ -- *LX1KQ*



LX1AQ & LX1KQ on the edge for fixing the Sel. Fritzell

P40B -- Aug 11, 2002 13:38 ET



P43P ready to have some fun from his qth

Some quick numbers: 160m 2q 80m 17q 40m 184q 20m 1037q 15m 1075q 10m 255q Total: 2565q, 190mults Final Score = 2342130 points.

Started the contest on 20m and changed to 15m after a while. Rates were keeping well above 100q/hr. Best rates were achieved during the 3rd hour of the contest on 15m, when the rate meter hit well over 280q's/hour for my best 10 min contest rate.

Knowing that the guys in Finland were running their WRTC contest stations at Low Power, I was always on the lookout for the WRTC stations. I was quite surprised by some of the excellent signals received by some of these OJ stations. Noticeably strong OJ stations were OJ8E, OJ6K and OJ8L all with nice signal on 40m compared with a very weak OJ1W on this same band, while quite weak were OJ6Y on 20m and OJ6W on 40m.

Final tally of OJ stations worked was as follows: 18 on 40m, 32 on 20m and 24 on 15m, for a total of 74 WRTC 2002 OJ stations worked. Congrats to N5TJ/K1TO who piloted OJ3A to narrow win over RA3AUU/RV1AW for another



A look at some of the antennas at my qth
on CW.

#1 spot in Finland.

Besides the many familiar callsigns worked, I was pleasantly surprised to be able to move VU2WAP from 40m to 20m and 15m. Thanks for the QSY Miku. TRLOG performed excellent and its 2 radio interface performed flawlessly throughout the contest.

Overall my Q count was higher than last year, but due to 10m not really opening up and LOT'S of usual QRN on 40, 80 and 160m down here, the came in with a lower multiplier count than previous year. Also the 40m activity from stateside was lower than expected this year. Looking at some of the preliminary numbers posted, it also looks like there was more activity

Thanks for the QSO's and see you all in the next contest.

73's de P43P/p40b

-- P43P

SN2D -- Aug 7, 2002 05:37 ET



... My Team ... -- SP2HPD

ZX5J -- Aug 5, 2002 17:16 ET

Great contest in spite of 10m band was almost dead. Lots of confusion because we think the rules are not so clear when working with a multiplier station. Thus, we decide to stay only with

one signal at time on the bands and just hearing and taking notes for the new mult's on the other bands.

Big sort of HQ's came up as long as OJ's and we tried to work them all. Next time we will get more intense body building lessons instead of just staying seat drinking and cheating, in order to stay awake during the dawn, hi hi. 73's - ZX5J Gang. -- PY3DX

OH0/DL4SDW -- Aug 1, 2002 13:16 ET



I had problems with the 3-Band-Mini-Beam that i had with me. At the first test at home it works not bad, but in OH0-Land there was no resonance on 15m and on 20m i found, that it had no directivity. So i used mostly wire dipoles and a 1-element deltaloop for 15m (that works). Only on 40m my 3-element vertical array worked fine. After beeing ready with building up the antennas, 2 hours before the start, my PA crashed.



Nevertheless i had much fun during the contest even with low power and i worked most of the WRTC-competitors, i've met in jämsä, wednesday and thursday before the contest.
-- DL4SDW

S51JM -- Jul 29, 2002 07:55 ET

This was my first IARU-HF contest. I worked with FT-840 and ECO Multiband Vertical Antenna. I've made 300 QSO's from all over the world. On my location, conditions were frightened. I had several thunderstorms, one with hail, so I had to disconnect power a few times



Here is the working place

and had "rescue operation" with my car during
hail storm. But as I always say: HAM is fun!
-- *S51JM*



Working place



Hailstones under Antenna

UR5FCM -- Jul 27, 2002 19:00 ET



I am at 1997 year UR5FCM,Igor I. Krinetsky

Thanks for a nice contest IARU HF 2002 But I'm work at saturday and not full work at this year I'm using low power about 20watts and low high antenna dipole for 40/15m. So condx only good with yagi hi hi !! So thanks again and see again on next IARU HF 73's Igor / UR5FCM -- *UR5FCM*

ON5ZO -- Jul 27, 2002 07:37 ET

I've been into CW contesting for 15 months now, and every time I find it more and more fun! This time I participated 20hrs out of 24, and broke my personal QSO-record: 550. Mind you; with very limited antennas: inverted V for 20m and delta loop for 40m. That's it. I had a blast working familiar calls and looking OJ-stations. Activity was good (only listened in the CW part of the bands) and speed was high, very skilled CW operators. Can't wait for the next one enter, CU all in WAE CW! 73 es CU in test de Franki ON5ZO -- *ON5ZO*

EM3J -- Jul 26, 2002 19:12 ET



I've been without elements antennas on 20 & 15 m. Only dipoles. Not so good propagation on 10m but work a lot of HQ stations. Also made more than hundred QSO's with OJ (WRTC teams). Thanks so much to everyone who call me during this contest. Hope to meet you again! Good Luck! 73! EM3J op. Ken -- *UU2JZ*

KC9AZL -- Jul 22, 2002 21:47 ET

First time I ever tried contesting and I made 105 QSO's. I worked 12 new countries and had a lot of fun. I am looking forward to the next contest. -- *KC9AZL*

4A3R -- Jul 21, 2002 19:16 ET



Poor conditions on 10m and 15m, but excellent conditions on 20m. it was very nice to active Contoy Is. IOTA group NA-045 on IARU HF contest 2002. We had a funny weekend, we will be make better work on next time. to all many thanks '73 -- *XE2NN*

VU3BKY -- Jul 19, 2002 20:02 ET

IT IS A VERY GOOD CONTEST, WHERE MOST OF THE COUNTRIES TAKE PART. MANY STNS DONOT SUBMIT THEIR LOGS BECAUSE OF NOT KNOWING THE REQUIRED LOG FILE I.E. CABRILLO ETC.. PSE. FOR FUTURE CONTESTS THINK OF ACCEPTING LOGS IN EXCELL FORMAT ALSO.

WHILE AWARDING CERTIFICATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT/ZONAL LEADER, FIRST...ETC. NAMES ALONGWITH CALLSIGN BE WRITTEN. -- *VU3BKY*



Antennas. 15m on top, 20m & 40m below, the little side mounted yagi is for DxCluster fed onto site on 70MHz.



Andy G4KNO and Mark G4AXX setting up the WriteLog network two weeks before the contest



GRANTA CONTEST GROUP - M4R - IARU/WRTC2002

TOTAL QSO 1444, PTS 5277 ZON 110, HQ
132

CLAIMED SCORE 1,277,034

Operators G4AXX Mark SSB G4KNO Andy
SSB G4EAG Simon SSB & CW G0CKP Steve
CW

Equipment FT1000MP, FT1000MP Mk V,
TenTec Titan DxCluster spot feeds on 4m.
Writelog 10.33C

Antennas

160m 1/4 wave vertical GP with 4 radials 80m 3
dipole sloper array at 80ft 40m 2-ele phased
array wrapped around 20m yagi 20m 3 element
monoband yagi at 82ft 15m 3 element
monoband yagi at 95ft 10m 4 element
monoband yagi at 40ft

WRTC Stations worked

OJ1C, OJ1F, OJ1M, OJ1N, OJ1S, OJ1W, OJ1X
OJ2F, OJ2J, OJ2Q, OJ2Y, OJ2Z OJ3A, OJ3D,
OJ3N, OJ4A, OJ4M, OJ4W OJ5A, OJ5E,
OJ5M, OJ5T, OJ5U, OJ5W OJ6C, OJ6E, OJ6K,
OJ6N, OJ6Y OJ7A, OJ7C, OJ7M, OJ7N, OJ7X
OJ8K, OJ8N, OJ8W

The station set up field-day style from Debden
Airfield near Saffron Walden, Essex (TL 559
438, JO01DX) using a 2.2kVA petrol generator.
This was the first time we had arranged 4m
access to the DxCluster and the first time any of

Friends visit us on site during the contest

us had used it. It certainly helped increase the QSO rate and at times working spots was as fast as running.

The last time we entered this contest was in 2000, when we were the Country and Zone 27 winners. Foot & Mouth disease had prevented us entering in 2001, so this year we were keen to compare, and improve on, our 2000 log.

We kicked off on 15m and made a fast start easily exceeding our 2000 rate. 10m was very poor to start with but started to open up later in the afternoon (about 18:50z).

We had a lot of RF feedback in the shack and spent time adjusting levels and fitting ferrite clip-ons on the leads.

We made the most of the 10m opening until 20:12z on Saturday, which was just as well because it didn't open again for the rest of the contest.

Shortly after at 20:35z we left 15m and dropped down to 20m. As the grey-line swung over us propagation was amazing, allowing us to work, amongst others, Japan (x4), US, Panama, India, Thailand, Australia, Argentina and South Korea in just 12 minutes between 21:41z and 21:53z! It felt like 20m was wide open, to the whole world at the same time and everyone was 59+, quite outstanding!

The limited hours of darkness at this time of year saw us eek out 20m until 23:00z then we moved to 40m. This may have cost us short skip European Q's.

It certainly seemed to all start going wrong at this point. 80m didn't provide much of a pool of activity, and 160m was dire. We have pretty decent antennas for 80m and 40m, and we rather expected decent runs to NA using split, but this didn't really transpire. We were thankful when 20m started opening again at about 04:00z!

We're frankly amazed that Tim, M5ACC, managed to accumulate the score he did during the night!

On Sunday morning things had slowed down a lot and by 09:00z our Q total was the same as at that time in 2000.

The expected early morning 20m path to JA never materialised, and we never did hear ZL.

The low MUF forced a lot of activity onto 20m and it was clear that the new 1.8kHz InRad's were making a huge difference on SSB!

15m struggled into life late at about 10:00z and that's where we finished. At the end we had 42 less QSOs than in 2000 but 8 more zones & 18 more HQ stations giving a 10.7% increase in score.

It sure looks like we can say a fond farewell to the highs of cycle 23 - it's been good to us.

Listening to the quality of the WRTC operators was a pleasure, but we only heard 37 of the 52 teams. The weather was rather hot during tear-down and we got sunburnt.

Our hats are off to M5ZAP & M0TTT for an even better performance this year, well done!

73 de Mark, Andy, Simon & Steve -- G4AXX

I3MLU -- Jul 19, 2002 01:27 ET



...Divertente. A ritrovarci ancora nel 2003!
-- I3MLU

W7ARC -- Jul 18, 2002 03:52 ET



My first IARU HF Contest and definitely not my last. Made only 31 contacts, but only worked at it part-time with a minimum of equipment and limited antenna (my rain gutter and 100 watts PEP). WHAT A RUSH! Had a great time doing it. -- W7ARC

Here I am in the thick of the contest.

K8FK -- Jul 16, 2002 20:26 ET

I ENJOY THE IARU HF ALOT AS IT IS A REAL CHALLENGE TO DEAL WITH SUMMER PROPAGATION AND A 24 HR CONTEST PERIOD. THANKS FOR A GREAT CONTEST AND THANKS TO SO MANY CONSIDERATE OPS! -- *K8FK*

UA3LHL -- Jul 16, 2002 06:13 ET



Good Contest! It is mine fifth IARU HF Championship.

In 2002 there were many HQ-stations. I was sick, but worked.

73's CU next year.

Sergei. -- *UA3LHL*

NP2KW -- Jul 16, 2002 04:22 ET



---This is where it all happened. -- *NP2KW*

you can see the footswitch slightly in front
and to the side of the cpu subwoofer on the
floor under the desk.

NP2KW -- Jul 16, 2002 03:55 ET

WHAT A NIGHTMARE!! -Propagation was nil 'til sundown , I ran into tuning problems 20 minutes before the contest that moved my starting time up 2 hours due to a faulty jumper (after having pulled my rig forward closer to my seating position) , and when I finally got on my way on 15M for a couple hours then started on 20M (when the band was supposed to have been open but wasn't) my beam wouldn't tune to the northeast (Europe for me). Had to climb my 40ft tower 4 times and finally figured out my problem was the newly erected 80M dipole feedline resting (with great tension) on the beams' boom whenever I turned it to the east. When that was settled , I then saw with agonizing astonishment (EEEEEEKK!!) that my contest logger was logging in local time instead of zulu! So...I had me a drink, 2 tylenols , and moved my cpu's time up four hours and proceeded with the contest. Everything was running smoothly now,...lots of multipliers being worked , a few stations here and there. I was having a blast and knew that nothing could stop me now ,.... when I felt a very familiar creature crawling over my bare toes....our local centipede..a very heavy one I might add , that had made her nest in my footswitch overnight and returning after hunting around all day (this is the second time this has happened). That was another two hour delay while I practically moved and almost tore apart my station to find her before she found her way to my 5 yr. old daughter. But all in all , when the sun rose the next morning and it was all over ,I looked at my score and realized I had almost doubled my goal (last years' winner for KP2...{hint hint}). It was my first contest ,...and for sure not the last. Good luck to all - NP2KW----- PS. FOR SALE - 1 FOOTSWITCH ,..inquire within. -- NP2KW

N2JNZ -- Jul 15, 2002 20:42 ET

Had a great time running QRP CW but not much heard from EU Using a TT Argo 509 with a 51 ft G5RV up 20 ft Not much here for mults so score VERY low mostly on 20 and 40 meters with 5 watts on 40 and 3 watts on 20

71s

George Osier , N2JNZ / QRP Pres. NNYCC -- N2JNZ

4U1ITU -- Jul 15, 2002 14:33 ET

Single Op CW to give ITU HQ multiplier. Very bad conditions on 10 meters and huge noise on all bands due to big storm and windy/rainy weather in Geneva area. Sorry, i was not deaf but



Sunday morning.... Tired operator ;-))

quite impossible to copy stations with signals less than +20dB !! Very very hard conditions. Otherwise a lot of fun in the 17 hours operation. Thanks to everybody and QSL labels are ready. QSL should be sent via bureau very soon. Cheers, PM -- *HB9DTM/F6FNL*

WP3GW -- Jul 15, 2002 00:27 ET



I have to agree with you all: conditions weren't to good, but during the afternoon onwards it improved; 15 and 20 were the bands to be!

Only problem? No logging program yet but the manual one is almost finished; just the points and multipliers need to be tabulated and then to the E-mail. I did more than 100 QSO's which was my goal and the furthest I went was to Hawaii to the west(KH6ND) and the Rep of Georgia to the east(4L0G); and only worked two OJ prefixes.

Also I did acknowledge about four other stations here working the contest here in Puerto Rico so I hope they submit logs; I even posted the event on a local reflector and announced it on a local net at 7:30 p.m. Saturday; at least I did my homework. So until the next contest, your friend Angel. -- *WP3GW*

K8AJS -- Jul 14, 2002 22:52 ET

Somewhat different from last year; the thought at the beginning of the contest was "Where's EU?" Conditions here were really poor until almost sundown on Saturday, when 20 meters finally opened up and I was able to work more easily across the pond. My score was higher this year because of multipliers, but the quantity was not there. A look at the charts reveals that I wasn't covering the world any better; the additional multipliers were almost all the result of more HQ stations in the mix this year. -- *K8AJS*



This is the operating position, before the contest.



Here I am about 12 hours into the contest, trying to hear a weak one.

KY1V -- Jul 14, 2002 16:31 ET

Having yagi's AND a DX Hawk is highly unfair.

Try using a ground mounted vertical barefoot!

Good luck,

David -- *KY1V*

NX9T -- Jul 14, 2002 16:28 ET



Conditions were poor during the morning and early afternoon but did seem to improve as the evening approached! I was only able to manage about 6 hours of operating time due to "life" but sure had a good time during the adventure. It's always a lot of fun! 73 and see you all in the next one! 73, Jeff NX9T Wake Forest, NC

PS. Stop by my webpage to take a look at the "shack" and antenna farm?!

<http://www.qsl.net/nx9t> -- NX9T



N6TR -- Jul 14, 2002 14:45 ET



Since the big station was being used by David, N6AN, I combined the IARU and Field Day contests into one and operated from the barn. Used my K2 at 100 watts with a tribander at 15 feet and an 80 meter dipole left over from a real field day about 6 years ago. It was fun dodging the big K7RAT signal and handing out 101 QSOs to the gang (although only one OJ station made it into the log). -- N6TR

Tribander up about 15 feet using teatherball support.



K2 and Toshiba laptop in the shop.

ZS6SRL -- Jul 14, 2002 13:46 ET

We, ZS4BS and ZS4MS, had a great time working the IARU HF Championship and giving out SARL. Just wish the guys would turn their antennas down this way every now and again.

QSL for the 2001 and 2002 contest goes via ZS4BS. -- *ZS4BS*

WA4ATJ -- Jul 14, 2002 13:32 ET



"DX Hawk" at work at WA4ATJ.

During these times of worsening conditions, we need all of the help we can get. The "DX Hawk" shown in the attached photograph is my secret weapon. While standing on the 12/17 meter beam (others are in use for the contest), he makes sure no DX gets by without being worked. I think he may also intimidate some other operators in the pileups! -- *WA4ATJ*

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