

# Contest Soapbox

## 2002 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

22 Soapbox entries available

### WX7G -- Oct 30, 2003 16:05 ET

Thanks to all who pulled my signal out of the noise! This is my first time running QRP on top band but it won't be my last. Ran 5 watts to a 40 foot top-loaded vertical in my antenna covenant neighborhood. This tilt-over vertical only makes appearances during the hours of darkness. I'll be back in 2003 with more radials and more coffee! -- *WX7G*

### K0TVD -- Jun 14, 2003 10:42 ET

Even though I had a new 160 meter amp, I could not use it because of a bad coax connector up on the tower. Will be there again in 2003. Chuck -- *K0TVD*

### NX9T -- Apr 24, 2003 09:37 ET

ICE STORM!!!! No electricity!!!! Very little contesting.

Seeya next time.

73, jeff NX9T

[www.qls.net/nx9t](http://www.qls.net/nx9t) -- *NX9T*

### K8MV -- Jan 22, 2003 15:30 ET



First ARRL 160 contest since 1980. Things sure have changed. Needed better receiving antennas. Since the contest I have put up a pennant and a beverage. Like George Washington I can not tell a lie. I filed Single Op High Power but the picture tells a different story. Start then young on CW! See you all next year -- *K8MV*

Grandma said she had a diamond ring for each granddaughter. I told this granddaughter to take the radio shack, it's worth more money!



I've got this paddle figured out now how do I type with the other hand? QRZ Test

**K6OM -- Jan 5, 2003 22:36 ET**



What a way to wake up... and, yes... those are big, fat raindrops hitting the water.

This was our second 160 contest, and it was more fun than the first! Our contest QTH was at Bodega Bay, California, made famous by the Hitchcock movie "The Birds".

We had everything up and running the night before the contest, only to awaken Friday morning to a double whammy from Mother Nature and Murphy, all rolled into one. The area we had set the antenna up in had stayed high and dry of bay waters last year by at least a hundred feet. Not so this year!

We had elevated the base of the antenna (a top loaded Hustler 5-BTV) about five feet above the ground, thinking that would be plenty of height to miss any advancing water... WRONG! We awoke to a rain storm and all but the top few inches of the 26-radial ground system marinating in salt water. Lovely. The attached



The K6OM seaweed collection at lower tide...

photos show the Friday morning high tide and our seaweed collection a bit later in the day.

It was not until way past midnight on Sunday morning (after we had driven ourselves crazy about why nobody was responding to our calls) that the MFJ analyzer told us the salt water had gotten into the feedline as well at the base of the antenna, and was shunting our RF into the ground radials. We were thrilled.

OPs this year were Tim, K6OM on his first 160 forway with Dick, WB6HII and me, Gary, WA6HZT.

Next year? A very long wire and helium balloon come to mind... -- WA6HZT

#### VE2OJ -- Jan 5, 2003 10:19 ET



Brice, VE3EDR at Keyboard and John, VE3NJ at Keyer.

VE2OJ is the Quebec Outaouais Contest Club, which has been participating in 160M contests such as the ARRL 160M CW, for at least 30 years.

We rotate the contest QTH amongst the various VE2 cottages that we own or have access to. This year, the shack was in Brice's 70 year old log cabin overlooking Lac Coulonge, 150 km north west of Ottawa, Ontario.

Equipment was hauled in the last few metres on a toboggan. The antenna was a 45 degree dipole at 70 feet. This disadvantage was more than compensated by a Kenwood TL-922A amplifier running full legal power. This enabled us to shoulder our way through the pileups and gather 200 more QSOs than last year.

Now, if we just had some decent ears (Next year's project!).





Outside view of Cabin.

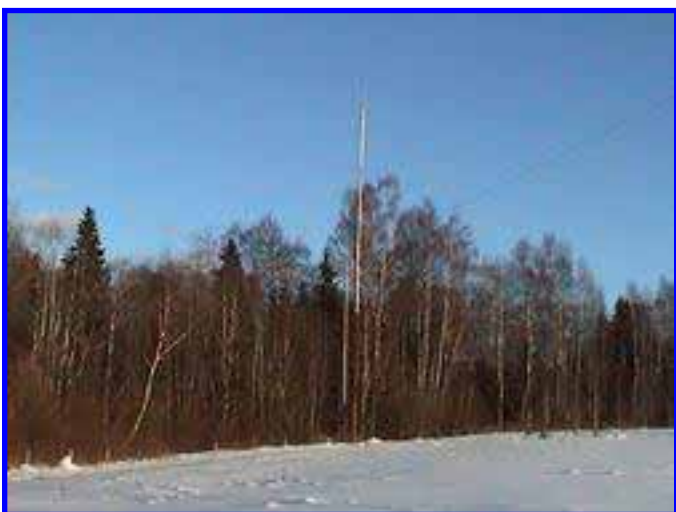
Best '73 and CU On the 2003 ARRL 160M CW!

Brice (VA2BW), John (VE3NJ), Craig (VE3OP), Mike (VE3ZY) -- *VE3OP*



View of Lac Coulangé.

LY2TA -- Dec 21, 2002 11:55 ET



GP antenna with 10 radials for 160m

Good activity from USA/VE. Hope to do better next year. Made only 45 QSO's in 8 hours... Tnx all stations we worked! 73! -- *LY2TA*



**LY2TA station during ARRL 160m**

**W1SJ -- Dec 27, 2002 02:44 ET**

Conditions much better this year than in the previous two years. There was a good smattering of Europe and West Coast stations to work. Worked my first VK ever in 25 years on 160 meters. Hearing anything beyond CA is very tough with a small antenna from the NE.

It appeared that I was often heard better than I heard other stations. For those who had to send their callsigns many times - Thank you for your patience! I'm using an aging TS-830 with leaky filters and a dipole only up 50 feet. -- *W1SJ*

**N8UZE -- Dec 21, 2002 08:45 ET**

This was the second time that I tried the 160 meter contest. Each time I enjoyed it. For this effort, I tried a random wire strung around the back yard only about 5 to 10 feet above the ground (it varied). Despite its low height, I was able to contact stations in Nebraska, Vermont, and Florida from my Michigan home. -- *N8UZE*

**KJ7WY -- Dec 13, 2002 22:53 ET**

Wow - another 160m test. Conditions here in Arizona was not as good as last year. Lots of noise after sunset but quieted down by 0300z. Poor openings on Sunday morning. I'd like to thank all, especially in the SE USA (with your poor wx, bet you had some poor rx?), who heard me. Always a fun, low pressure contest. I was surprised to hear many from Idaho this year working the contest. I am still looking for CT, RI, and ME for Worked All States. Would like to work an EU one year, but none heard this year. Maybe next year! I am going to miss seeing mine and my buddies call in QST anymore : ( See you again. 73's Pete -- *KJ7WY*

**K4CNW -- Dec 13, 2002 10:44 ET**

So much for the "Sunny South" (SC). Lost my 160 antenna to ice on Thursday before the contest. Spent most of Friday getting an Inverted L up. I could not get the SWR below 3:1 but it seemed to play OK -- must have been the extra 4,000 feet of radials that I added. Operated low power and had my best score ever. Thanks to all who called and my apologies to those I could not dig out. Next year hope to have a good receiving antenna. -- *K4CNW*

**N8XE -- Dec 12, 2002 23:21 ET**

First time operating 160M. My goal was to work about 20 contacts and see what the limit to my station is on this band. My setup includes an Alpha Delta DXLB+ inverted V dipole up about 35'. Did not think I could do much. Started out working the band at sunset and did not do too well. However, once it got late, I was making contacts left and right! Worked as far as AZ from OH with my setup! Even worked a DX station in Martinique. I was happy. Worked 40 sections, 1 DX, and scored 8323. I may want to add a nice receiving loop for next year!! I will be attempting to QSL these stations and start my 160M WAS!!

Had a blast.... 73 Jason -- *N8XE*

**N6PE -- Dec 9, 2002 22:47 ET**

Sorry I missed the contest this year. Spent Friday in the east coast snow storm. Was awake 20 hours straight when I got about an hour in the contest on Saturday. I hope there were some other stations in the Orange Section on this year. Next year I will be using a pencil wrapped with a full wave of No. 60 wire. That should improve my signal by at least 10 DB. -- *N6PE*

**W7DRA/0 -- Dec 12, 2002 00:31 ET**



Been enjoying working contests from my daughter's home in Omaha, NE. I drag my much modified hw16 and a spool of wire and put up a temporary 200 foot end fed wire, temporary because of NE weather, nothing stays up very long.

I was suprised at how weak the PAC NW was, not even hearing any VE7s, and working only 3 in Washington and one in Oregon.

Now I know why I can spend hours calling guys in the midwest and work nothing, even with my

**Life in the 160m fast lane, 30 watts out of a modified HW16**

Washington State 160m Super Station (Viking I, NC183/bc453a, inverted L)

The enclosed photo is of me operating the 2002 ARRL 160m contest from my daughter's basement stained glass studio. -- *W7DRA*

**WV1K -- Dec 11, 2002 00:54 ET**

I was surprised what could be worked with 200 watts and a decent (for me) antenna with only 2 quarter-wave and 4 eighth-wave radials. Operated during the 5 hours before Midnight each night (10 hours total for the event). 8 DXCC entities (they sound so alive when you say it that way) and 43 sections worked. Furthest west from the Cape was Utah (otherwise known as Utah !) which was a surprise. And the other direction was Slovenia. This was the first time I tried this contest and I did what I wanted to do... test the antenna ! -- *WV1K*

**N4NTO -- Dec 9, 2002 22:55 ET**

Enjoyed the contest! Bad WX kept the planned inverted L from going up, so I loaded the 75/40 meter dipole with 100W through the roller inductor tuner for the 8 hour (total) effort, 124 Qs, 35 mults, claimed 8680. Thanks to the ones with patience who I worked! I am pleased....surely was fun! -- *N4NTO*

**W2RW -- Dec 9, 2002 21:12 ET**



Just a quick 2 hr effort with my good friend and ace CW op Tim, WB2KAO. Had an elevated noise floor from time to time, probably due to some cycling street lights that we've been fighting in the neighborhood. Had a good time, worked some old friends, didn't lose any sleep, and that's what's important to us. -- *W2RW*

**Center support for the full size 160m dipole that hangs at about 55 ft.**



**N8AU -- Dec 9, 2002 18:48 ET**

My first real operation on 160 ever. I designed a loaded inverted Vee and managed to get it hung by 2245Z on 12/06, Friday evening. Talk about last minute preparation! Promised the XYL I'd wait until the kids were in bed to sit down at the radio so I wasn't on until 0400Z. Fell asleep at the key about 0900Z. XYL wanted my company (and help) until 0430Z Sunday, and once again, fell asleep at the key about 0520Z. Woke up around 0800Z and stayed awake long enough to make 100 QSOs and 37 multipliers for a score of 7400. Maybe if the XYL and kids visit her folks out of town next year, hmmm.....! -- N8AU

**KA7T -- Dec 9, 2002 16:32 ET**

The WX Friday night was freezing fog and I had to go out every 30 minutes and whack my antennas with a rubber mallet to knock off the ice. The ice build up would short out the antennas. Going out in the cold air did help keep me awake most of the night. Thanks for all of you who called and gave me a qso. 73s Don -- KA7T

**N0AX -- Dec 9, 2002 11:14 ET**



My part-time effort was nevertheless a success as I was able to reduce some of the QRN and BC QRM that has been a plague since early this year. The photo shows the receiving loop that went up on Friday in time for some badly-needed low-noise signal gathering. Unfortunately, working on the antennas and grounding kept me from having enough time to stay up late enough for the cross-continental propagation to kick in. Oh well - we're just starting the Top Band season out here, so the dividends will be paid eventually.

Welcome back to our JA friends - a few went in the log Saturday morning at sunrise. The 1810-1825 kHz allocation for them is working well - I'm sure it's a lot more fun for them than being sequestered 100 kHz away from the activity.

73, Ward N0AX -- N0AX



A slightly lumpy, single-turn, shielded loop of 1/2" CATV hardline sits atop a lesser tower at N0AX. This is a dual-band loop and can be used on 80-meters, as well. A reed-relay in a switchbox at the base of the loop selects the appropriate tuning trimmer capacitor to resonate the loop. DC for the relay is sent through the feedline.

**W1JQ -- Dec 9, 2002 08:36 ET**

Five contacts, 40 points isn't exactly an impressive claimed score--is there a certificate for "lowest score, worldwide"? But what's significant is that those five contacts roughly \*doubled\* the number of CW contacts I've made in my 33-year ham career. Thanks, guys, for going slow enough. I'll see you again next year.

Mike, W1JQ -- *W1JQ*

**K0BJ -- Dec 8, 2002 23:46 ET**



The inv-L runs about 3' from the tower. That's not Dawg X-ray but Patch. (on the left.....)

No operation Friday night because I was part of the team at N0A, National Wx Service in Goodland KS 35 miles west operating Skywarn Recognition Day. I came home fatigued at 9PM Saturday but took a couple passes up the band. Then I woke at 4:30 Sunday morning and joined the 160 Dawn Patrol. This was a 100% S&P operation, 116 Qs, 52 mults (3 DX + PAC) = 12773 score.

My 160 station is an FT1000MP and direct coax-fed 60' high Inverted lazy L, for T & R. The 'flat top' points to 045 degrees and slopes from 60' down to 20'. Some winters I add two 60' chicken wire counterpoises; seems to work about the same with or without them. In my rural, low noise environment this is a reasonably ok rx antenna but I'm sure I'd profit from Beverages or pennants. I can log JA most contests but EU is a REAL

challenge. It plays ok around the US except for weakness to ME/VT/SFL. -- *K0BJ*

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