

Contest Soapbox

2003 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

40 Soapbox entries available

KD2RD -- Jul 27, 2003 10:12 ET



KD2RD & Cassie

Had a blast ! Thanks to everyone for the contacts. See you next season. 73s... John
-- *KD2RD*



**Antennas: 3el Tribander / Shorty Fourty /
80m Loop**

WB6IYM -- May 2, 2003 00:19 ET



Another year, another test...This time results were better than last year, but conditions were noticeably worse...Thanks to all who hung in there and worked me despite my limited antenna system (ground mounted HF6V)....Maybe next year I will have a better antenna...

Charles -- *WB6IYM*

PV8DX -- Apr 27, 2003 17:16 ET



A station of amateur radio in the Amazonian

It is always excellent the propagation of my position. I am located 2 degrees above the line of Ecuador in the amazon area of Brazil. I hope to find all in 2004, Good luck 73 de PV8DX
Paulo -- *PV8DX*

**A station of amateur radio in the Amazonian
Force 12 - C4 XL**

ZF2NT -- Apr 22, 2003 20:58 ET



Here is a picture of Yuri, VE3DZ/UT4UZ/ZF1DZ, during the contest. Yuri and I entered M/S under my call, ZF2NT, though I'm certain Yuri could have done even better without my slowing him down. We each operated 24 hours by alternating in 4 or 5 hour shifts, so we were still functioning humans at contest end. We did make a good team, I thought, and might team up again at some point in the future. After all, we did manage to break 6M claimed, which would be a M/S record for this contest if our log was near golden!

VE3DZ/ZF1DZ operating as ZF2NT

Yuri's face that things were not boring then.

Bruce -- *ZF2NT*

By the way, this picture was taken on Sunday afternoon. You can see from the expression on

9G5ZZ -- Mar 13, 2003 15:47 ET



It has been a plesure to give out a semi rare contry during the contest. I hope I manged to set a new Africa record for 20m/LP/SOp/unassited?

See you soon! Arno -- *DL1CW*

IU2M -- Mar 12, 2003 13:16 ET



I2WIJ at IU2M

It was 1000Z on Feb 15, when I launched my first "Test IU2M IU2M". Suddently an "unusually" weak KC1XX was answering. A big smile on my face: things are just starting well! I didn't realized what really was happening, supposing the weak signal was due to the band just opening: BAD LUCK was going to happen, instead.

It wasn't the propagation, it wasn't the band still close, it wasn't anything but the Power Amp that was acting as an "attenuator" when in receive mode.

I wish to apologise to all who thought I was deaf: you were right, I was, indeed!

After trying to change the radio, the coax between Radio and Amp, the coax between Amp and RF Meter, and more....., the bad relay contact was discovered just at the end of the contest, as

usual. Next time we need to test the setup at least one day before.

Trying to figure out what was going on, I made some 10M qso's too.

CU next year: I will sure hear you better! Bob,I2WIJ -- *I2WIJ*

K1DS -- Mar 4, 2003 23:06 ET

Thanks for all the great ears out there--using 100w and a 40-10m G5RV in the attic makes the DXing a bit more challenging, but I'm grateful to all those who were patient with the weak ones. 73, Rick -- *K1DS*

W2UP -- Mar 3, 2003 17:34 ET



Fun contest. Lots of QRPers kept the ears working hard! -- *W2UP*

My RF lighting up the sky? 3 TH7's, a 402CD, and wires on 80/160.



Yours truly

N1DC -- Feb 28, 2003 11:52 ET



This was a very interesting contest compared to last year. I ran into a stray RF problem on 20M that created havoc for my PC. It's really difficult to run stations at 30wpm using a paddle for any length of time. I did have some good runs on 10 and 15M this year. The most interesting moment was during the final 10 minutes of the contest. I was on 15M with the beam pointed due south looking for multipliers. Tuning high in the band I encountered a massive pileup for LZ0A. There was only about 8 minutes left. I thought it would be impossible to get through

such a big pileup. I figured out where he was listening and sent my call quickly at 30 wpm. No response. Then I transmitted up 50 KHz, then 75 KHz. He called N1? then N1D? I got him at 100KHz up from his frequency at 2355 UTC. I broke through one of the biggest pileups I've heard in a while with 80W and a 4 element Yagi. This last multiplier # 273 pushed my score past 800,000. Many thanks to the Op at LZ0A with good ears! Special thanks to all the stations that answered my CQ and the many QRP stations that kept trying in heavy QRM. 73 de Rick Member Yankee Clipper Contest Club QTH Braintree MA -- *N1DC*

DJ3GE -- Feb 28, 2003 07:32 ET

Many thanks to all the Northamerican "Big Guns" who were able to copy my weak signals and had the patience to complete a QSO. I used the FT-817 set to 2.5 Watts output and my number in the contest was 3. My antenna was a 2 element mini Yagi MFB-23 from Fritzel designed for 10m, 15m and 20m adjusted to the ssb part of the bands, 11 m high. The effective radiated



power (ERP) was calculated with all the losses from antenna tuner Z-11, coaxial cable , connectors, coaxial switch and the antenna gain and was best at about 7.5 watts on 10m-band. On 40 m I used a Windom antenna FD-3, 8m high. Similar calculations brought an ERP of about 4 watts. Also on my side I had to be very patient, hearing the competing stations with the numbers for their power: KW, 700, 500, 100, 50, 10, and again KW, 500, etc.. Some stations I was able to contact on my first attempt, others I had to try it up to 15 times. Again many thanks from Ferdi, DJ3GE (on the air since 1956, not only qrp)
-- *DJ3GE*

OH6Y -- Feb 26, 2003 08:15 ET



Station: Yaesu FT-1000MP + Ameritron AL-1200

Antennas: 6 over 6 over 6 yagi

It was so hard from the middle of Aurora this year! I was operating 10 meter single band and the conditions were very poor. There were only short openings during both days... I think next year I have to select some other category!

Anyway, my son Henry enjoyed listening radios during the contest. Maybe because he got his name according to Henry Radio. He is now two years old... So, it takes some years before we can run together as multi operator! ;o)

Thanks for the QSOs!

73 de Harry -- *OH6YF*

YV5OHW -- Feb 25, 2003 17:42 ET

I like to thanks all who worked YV5OHW on 80 meters, this was my first CW contest and I was very thrill to be able to work 57 states and provinces. My Claimed score of 166K exceeds



40 meters.

Greg, -- YV5OHW

PJ7/ND5S -- Feb 25, 2003 17:18 ET



Photos: ND5S operating the station which consisted of an Icom 706MKIIG, an Alinco switching power supply, an LDG automatic tuner and an HP laptop. The antenna farm on the hotel roof overlooking the Caribbean Sea.

bands.

Highlight was having K7ABV from MT call me at 2358 for my last mult.

my expectations and encouraged me to come back next year.

Here is a pictures of myself at the operating position with the TS-530S that I ran during the contest along with old Heathkit SB-200 amp.

QSL route for this operation is via my QSL manager EA7FTR.

73/DX and see you during the SSB contest on

Another great time from Dutch St.Maarten (PJ7) for this contest and my single op low power entry. Claimed score was 2,551,224 with 2873 QSOs. An improvement of 613 QSOs from last year and the exact same number of multipliers at 296.

There were some slow hours in early afternoons I've come to call the "Caribbean slump" as stateside stations turn their beams to Europe and the peanut whistles down here aren't heard off the sides.

Ten meters was a lot more productive than I thought it would be.

My Butternut HF2V vertical performed great at 90 feet for the low bands, and my Cushcraft MA5B mini-beam did a nice job on the high bands.

Thanks to DL3OI for activating WY and doing enough S & P for me to get him in the log on 5

Missed DC LB NT YT NU. -- *ND5S*

F8DEZ -- Feb 24, 2003 15:15 ET



in spite a white bird Hi I am a new radio Ham and that was my first contest. Very good moment of radio ,good ham spirit and friendship. I won't miss to come back next opportunity 73's to all fm France Charles/F8DEZ IN Normandy not far away from the famous Utah beach -- *F8DEZ*

XT2WP -- Feb 25, 2003 07:37 ET



XT2WP operated by G4BWP from the Splendide Hotel in downtown Ouagadougou. I decided to go back to the XT2DX CQ WW QTH to try my hand in the ARRL DX contest on 15m SB HP. I made 2830 QSOs and claiming 444k. The condx were great. I also made 3500 WARC band QSOs in the days prior to the contest. The attached photos show the antenna, shack and the great team of guys who helped me put up the antennas. They are employed in the Hotel laundry but always interested in giving a hand. Thanks also to G3SXW who came along and kept me fed and watered for the weekend. Finally thanks to everyone who called in. 73. -- *G4BWP*

XT2WP antenna, a Force 12 3 ele DXpedition model

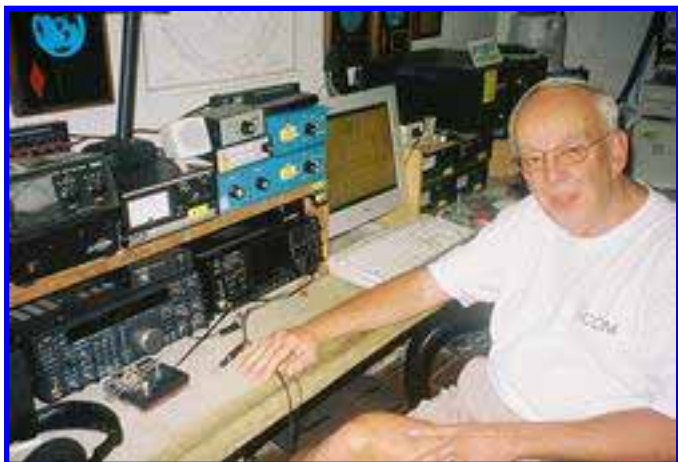


Richard (on left) and friends who helped with the antenna.



G4BWP in the XT2WP shack. TS930 with Alpha 76. Logging with TR.

PY0FF -- Feb 24, 2003 23:51 ET



W9VA at the PY0FF Operating Position

Thanks to all who worked PY0FF on 10 meters. Claimed score of 341K exceeds previous SB 10 South America record. Here are pictures of myself at the operating position and the 7 over 7 10 meter array. Thanks to the Araucaria DX Group and my host Andre PY0FF for putting together a great station on the wonderful island of Fernando de Noronha. Since my first visit to Noronha in 1988, slowly there have been changes to accomodate growing tourism, but it largely remains an unspoiled tropical paradise, with 70% of the island protected as a National Park, and population limited to about 2500. In



PY0FF 7 over 7 10 Meter Array

addition to 1,930 contest QSO's I logged over 2,600 mostly WARC band contacts before and after the contest as PY0ZFO. QSL's for both PY0FF and PY0ZFO via W9VA. 73 Bill
-- W9VA

JH1AEP -- Feb 24, 2003 08:22 ET



My new 3el full size yagi for 40m. de JH1AEP Fumi

I enjoyed ARRL DX CW contest.

I builded up a new 3el full size yagi for 40m. And, I started to try to new Asia record for 40m single operator. But, I could not reach the record. Finally, I scored 561 QSO's 1683 pts 53 multi = 89,199.

1st day, I had a noise from start to around 09Z. So, very low rate QSO's that time. But, after 09Z, I was called from many NA. 2nd day, I had no noise from start at 06Z. But, condition changed frequently. I enjoyed long path both morning. Especially, VY2ZM was new multi for me at 2nd day. He sent good signal to Japan

through the long path.

Thank you and see you next contest 73 de JH1AEP Fumi -- *JH1AEP*

IU3X -- Feb 23, 2003 05:25 ET

Hi This year i work on 40 mt on IV3OWC station using a 5EL Quad 35 mt UP(boom leinght 25 mt) very big antenna.I think not strong propagation because all usual 40 mt station on ARRL the results is down on 2001 & 2002. I just worked 911 qso 57 Mults (no work ND) 156.000 points about. I crashed my PC(p3 600 and WinME) at 00.01 after the first qso (N1MM software by LPT1) I changed all my setup and returning on air after only 20 minutes. Whit other pc (486)



and CT software 9.71 My Time ON AIR Only
16.5 Houres i closed a Test at 8.00z on 16
febb.Domenica.

Hi after 30.000 qso whit my contest call IQ3X
new rules on Italy not assigned after 2002 IQ
Prefix (only for Club Station) Will be changed
on NEW *** IU3X *** See on WPX On 40 Mt
HI

To look a antenna photos and Other go on
www.ira2.com or www.qsl.net/iv3skb 73
ANDY IV3SKB IQ3X IU3X -- *IV3SKB*

N2JNZ -- Feb 21, 2003 21:19 ET

Had a great time and a BIG thank you to all the ops with great ears !! I was amazed at 25 QSOs on 40 meters with 5 watts and a dipole 20 ft high at one end and 3 ft at the other !!!! The Omni D works VERY well at QRP but 10 was very tough on Saturday. I wasnt even close to last years score but had a GREAT time as usual !!!! George , N2JNZ -- *N2JNZ*

K9IA -- Feb 22, 2003 14:09 ET

Always a great time with this contest. -- *K9IA*

W7KPL -- Feb 21, 2003 22:48 ET

This was a wonderful contest. My 100 watts and dipole worked well. 10 meters was hot most of the time. 100 contacts in about 15 hours. I need to get with the 21st Century on this logging business. I'm still a paper and pencil man when it comes to contests. My dad, W9NU/W9IPT, a Silent Key, was a real contest man. I have his Sweepstakes Log from 1947! I'll be in the phone test March 1-2.Thanks to all. I look forward to next year. Low power and wire antennas. Ya



My "mug" shot. Jerry W7KPL Scottsdale, Arizona

can't beat it! Best 73's to all.

Jerry W7KPL Scottsdale, Arizona -- *W7KPL*

W7SW -- Feb 21, 2003 22:07 ET

THANKS A MILLION! I sure had a GREAT time! I had fun working the JA Ops and enjoyed all the QSOs. It was nice to meet up again with so many old friends! 73 es CU on the CW bands agn sn! Scotty -- W7SW

K3WWP -- Feb 21, 2003 09:19 ET



Me and my old homebrew station

My story of the contest is posted on my web site at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan/> in my CONTESTING section - Contest Stories page. Read my experiences as a minimal QRP (QRP with simple wire antennas) operation. Other stories are there as well. -- *K3WWP*

K7ABV -- Feb 20, 2003 21:35 ET

During this test I spend most all my time using the S and P style of operating....several times I began calling cq with not so good results, so i went back to s and p...later I saw where folks were looking for MT...I was assisted class, so my timing for cq was not good haw..once it gets to Midnight i generally fold up as 80 cw is too loaded with qrn at this city lot location, and I had

worked a few on 160 and was happy with that..I always enjoy it, but after over 40 years don't plan on spending more than half the test time to add q's to the log..always a good test, however next year maybe tuff if 28 MHZ goes south for us northern folks haw..often we are called the black hole of dx, but if you play the cards right you can still make a dent in the pileups...73 K7ABV same call since 57 and alwaays in MT!! -- K7ABV

PJ2T -- Feb 20, 2003 20:50 ET



PJ2T Team Photo: W0NB, WA9S, W0CG (kneeling), W8TK, W9EFL Monday morning after the post-contest breakfast. -- W0CG

PJ2T Team: W0NB, WA9S, W0CG (kneeling), W8TK, W9EFL.

N7OU/HI9 -- Feb 20, 2003 18:39 ET

Propagation from HI was even better than I had hoped. I arrived a few days early to familiarize myself with the station and to get used to being dx. A couple of cqs on a likely band would inevitably result in a howling pileup. All my qsos were on my favorite mode cw except for some relaxed, post-contest chats Monday on 10m ssb. During the contest I tried to set an even, steady pace. When not too many stations were calling me, I could work 3 or 4 a minute, even with my awkward callsign dragging after every qso like a long tail. On Sunday afternoon my paddle or my fist or both developed the yips and it became increasingly hard for me to send. What started out as e's would become i's, a's would turn out to be u's, etc. Slowing down and placing the key on a softer surface helped some. Thanks to the patient ops who bore with me. Maybe I need to become less keyboard averse. Thanks also to Erwin DL4NCF for entrusting me with his excellent house and station in Las Terrenas, and to Jos and Ans, Los Holandeses, for their good cheer and hospitality. Please qsl via the buro or direct to N7OU with an sase. It will take a couple of weeks to get cards printed up. 73 mis amigos, Bill N7OU Gear: FT990 LP7 log periodic up 54 ft. 40m and 80m dipoles up 45 ft. -- N7OU

W5KFT -- Feb 20, 2003 16:16 ET

There are so many layers to the onion of ham radio. The headline for this contest has to be "K5PI discovers the effects of sleep deprivation". Who needs drugs? Just try to copy Morse code for two days straight!

I did single op in the CQWW CW contest, but I "only" operated 41 of the 48 hours. I got a little sleep both nights and each afternoon. This time I was on for 44 hours, but I only managed to sleep during one of the three off periods I took. I worked all through Friday night/Saturday morning. It may have been caffeine, or it may have been nervous energy, but I couldn't sleep at all during my hour and a half off early Saturday afternoon. I took another hour off late Saturday night (0600Z) but only nodded off a couple of times. By Sunday afternoon, I was useless. At 1935Z, I went down HARD for a little over an hour. I woke up groggy, but ready to go -- or so I thought. I sat down at the radio and for somewhere close to five minutes, I seriously could NOT remember what I was supposed to do. Okay, I'm supposed to hit F1 to call CQ, and I'm supposed to hit Alt-D as well -- I've been doing that for the last 36 hours, but damned if I can remember anything else. Let's see -- someone calls me, and then . . . I type something, I think . . . if he's DX I think that's good, but wait . . . there's that dupe thing . . . I'd better not call anyone yet because I'm not sure I'd know what to do . . . Well, no answers to my CQs, so I'd better try . . . hmmm, maybe that's it -- okay he answered me -- which antenna am I on? . . .

Very, very fortunately this was not during any significant opening.

At other times, I struggled with some strange ideas that there was a special protocol for contacts on 40M, and that the Russians high in the band on 20M were avoiding me for some bizarre reason -- why else wouldn't they answer my CQs!

There were some tough times to be sure, even a few times when it took a great deal of will just to keep going, but just then something really cool would happen. Some highlights:

My first hour was 106, mostly on 10M. 79 QSOs on the 10M run radio was 50% better than I've seen before in this contest, and I was able to work in 27 contacts on the second radio for a great start.

I hit a gold mine on 20M Saturday night a little before 0730, watched the rate go through the roof for a half hour, and picked up 14 needed multipliers. 20M is still mysterious to me -- it can be very fickle when the sunspots are up, and I've been surprised quite a few times what happens. I understand the K5TR crew made even more of this opening -- I was late to the party trying to work Europe on 40.

Just after that, I found a bottomless pit of JAs on 40M that I ran for four hours. This was the kind of opening I'd heard about but never experienced. The QRN had settled down, and even the QRP guys were Q5 copy.

Saturday morning to Europe was a little disappointing. I started running on 15M just after 1300Z and moved the run rig to 10M an hour later. I didn't crack 100/hr that morning -- signals were down.

The beverages were helpful once again for the low bands. The SE beverage made it much easier to rip through 160M and pick up the Caribbean guys. I worked my first ever JA on 160 fifteen minutes before our sunrise.

Coming into Sunday morning, I was very punchy but the increase in the rate helped get me going. I hit 15M at 1322Z, and things were going pretty well. Then the rate started to really sag, and I decided that a mass exodus to 10M had happened. So I started running on 10 at 1406Z, but I couldn't get anything going. It seemed as if the bottom had fallen out from a solar flare of something. All I could hear were the EU super stations -- not terribly loud -- and the east coast guys. I went back to running 15M at 1451Z, but didn't get an answer for four straight minutes! I made a S&P run through 15M, picking up a dozen EU superstations, then tried to run 15 again. Lousy rate. Finally, at 1530, I went back to 10M, and found that the band was wide open. I ended up way up the band, but finally got some action going.

Through all of this, I was not making good use of the second radio. After 38 hours with no sleep, I'd been looking forward to parking and running some high rate then finally getting some sleep. I kept wondering if I was on the wrong antenna or something. In fact, for about a half hour after I finally settled in on 10M and after I pulled one of the radios a little toward me on the desk, I thought 15 was completely dead -- only to find out I'd yanked out one of the connectors into the beverage interface box.

I finally got my hour of sleep at 1940Z, got back on, and sort of limped across the finish line with 61 more contacts and 8 more multipliers. I wasn't sure I had enough wits about me to fight the famous last hour pileups, and so I decided to skip that madness. After all, I was getting a good little batch of JA calls from running. And I had three mults call *me* during that last hour. But in the end, I couldn't resist. With 20 minutes to go, I jumped into the fray for D88S on 20M, not having any clue where D8 was. I finally dupe checked him and the software said South Korea. Huh? Late afternoon on 20? And loudest on the SE antenna? I got him in four or five tries, and later found out that he was in the South Shetlands. I then found 9V1YC holding a snarling pack at bay just up the band and got him in a couple of calls. -- *K5PI*

8S5X -- Feb 20, 2003 15:20 ET

Thanks everyone for a nice contest! It was a fight against miss Aurora. On 160 and 80 we had to fight for almost every QSO. Several times we was beaten by LP and QRP stations from southern Europe. Anyhow we had a great time doing Multi/Multi from SM5HJZ with 7 operators on 4 positions. We were amazed that we could make QSO's on 4 band simultaneously despite the bad propagation.



L-R: SM5HJZ, SM0IHR and SM5DJZ
enjoying M/M-operation from
8S5X@SM5HJZ.

73 de Ingo, SM5AJV -- *SM5AJV*

WA3KYY -- Feb 19, 2003 12:12 ET



The scene outside my QTH the morning
after the contest. Half of my G5RV antenna
is buried under 22 inches of snow on the
roof.

A lot of fun for my first ever attempt at a major CW contest. My arm and wrist were cramping up by the end after sending all exchanges with a straight key. Biggest thrill was getting JY9NX on 40M on the 2nd call. I need to spend more time on 80M and get up an antenna that works for 160M. Station here was an Elecraft K2/100 and a G5RV antenna up 25 feet with one leg bent into a "U" shape. Managed 158 multipliers and 33 new countries. 73 from snowy Maryland, Mike. -- *WA3KYY*

PA3GVI -- Feb 19, 2003 05:53 ET

I didn't plan to be on but could not refuse the big pile ups that occurred on 40 and 10 meters later Saturday afternoon after calling CQ!! Results(no top position):some 532 QSO's. This has pulled me through to take part again.

Thanks for all North-American interest!!



73',pa3gvi/ROB. -- PA3GVI

IK6OIN -- Feb 19, 2003 04:52 ET

Good conditions and great contest. Good result for me, considering my not excellent actual antenna system. But i was looking on low bands for the nr 0-6-7 call area USA station with no so much luck.. For to get into my log those station (i need them for 5band WAS..) i hope it will be better on 2003 with the same kind of contest and with the next phone contest. Many thanks to Edward - W0SD - for the qso(s) on 10-15-20-40 met. bands - South Dakota it's vy difficult to listen in central Italy.... Best regards de Tony - ik6oin - -- *IK6OIN*

LU1FAM -- Feb 17, 2003 22:26 ET



Station: 6 el mono at 32 m. 6 el mono at 21 m. 7 el log periodic at 30m. IC-775 DSP L4B 700W

Nice Contest... hard work US when they are working EU from South America... Thanks to VY1JA who call me 23:30 and gave me YT :) Was nice to contact with lots of friends there i met in WRTC 2002... K9ZO W2GD KQ2M K2UA W6OAT K1KI K1DG N9RV VE3EJ and others .. and also with OH6YF who call me when no one was on... lots of JA call me :S ... and lots of dupes ... ¿?¿?¿?.... Well i like to

congratulate PT5T(op. PY2YU) and PY0FF(op. W9VA) for their great score... good luck to Sebastian LU4FPZ at LT5F... I like to thanks to the Bad Power crew LU1FJ LU1FKR LU3FZR for let me play their fine station... Lucas LU1FAM -- *LU1FAM*

KA1VEC -- Feb 17, 2003 18:19 ET

this was the 1st dx contest with the new club call KA1VEC. ct signalmen my dad russell t hack sr , silent key dec 21 2000. was a signal man in navy WW 2 . hence the name of the club

formed in his honor. nice to work you all . my dad enjoyed contests very much. regards russell t
hack jr -- *NM1K*

PA3EZC -- Feb 17, 2003 17:28 ET



Again I had a great time working in this contest. With my poor antenna (MLB with a short rope) I managed to work a big number of States. It was also nice to work a lot of stations that I worked the week before in the Dutch PACC-contest. I'm looking forward to participate in next years edition.

73, Walter Watson -- *PA3EZC*

M8C -- Feb 17, 2003 16:24 ET

What a ball. Worked 665 Q's (SOAB, LP).... with a 3 foot multi-band top-loaded mobile antenna (Comet UHV-6) mag-mounted on the car roof!! Getting out into the country makes a big difference.

Couldn't believe how everyone kept coming back to me so easily, especially on 80m on Saturday morning! My only regret is that I mis-judged the propagation, thinking it would be closed 09:00 to 12:30 Z; came on mid-day on Sunday and the high bands were all wide open!

Thanks for all the QSO's, guys, and hope to see you for the 'phone leg... I may be only QRP then, but I have a secret weapon for the antenna system!

73 to all,

Tim -- *G4DBL*

PA3GVI -- Feb 17, 2003 02:35 ET

Didn't plan to be active but could not resist the pile up's that occurred when calling CQ. I have only been active Saturday morning for a couple of hours and through the day when I had the time.(family matters) With 10 meters being very good and nice multie's on 40 aswell. Enjoyed this first entry and hope to be more active in next ones! Thanks to all North-Americans!!

73,PA3GVI. -- *PA3GVI*



N4NR -- Feb 18, 2003 19:46 ET



I just completed my new Elecraft K1 kit a few weeks ago, so this was a good chance to test it out. I had a great time!

All contacts were made using 5 watts, battery supply, and a single wire antenna ... a 20 meter extended double zepp up about 35 feet ... In about 7 hours total operating time I snagged 102 country multipliers out of 155 contacts. I was especially surprised how well the 5 watts did on 40 meter pileups...

Nothing turned on except the Elecraft K1 and the computer... The QRO rig might not get turned on again!! .. Except for SSB .. :-)

Thanks to all the DX for your patience and a great time!

Dennis - dennis@dease.net -- *N4NR*

NU4B -- Feb 17, 2003 14:02 ET

Great contest again. 10 meters was fantastic Sunday - a big help to qrpers. Only problem was thunderstorms Saturday night. Thunderstorms in February? Give me a break!!! Thanks to all who spent the time copying my 5 watt signal. -- *NU4B*

WS1L -- Feb 17, 2003 14:00 ET

It had been a long time away from ham radio. No QSO's in the log from 1995 to 2001 while I finished a graduate degree and got promoted at work. The summer of 2002 saw me dusting off the old rigs, and by the fall I was looking for a way to get my CW speed back. November SS did that. When I saw the International DX Contest on my calendar, I figured I would operate

between other commitments, maybe enjoy a few CW contacts.

A week or so prior to the contest I downloaded and installed CT, and a day before entered a few test contacts to try it out. My keying interface for TRX-Manager worked for the keying, although not for the rig on the same Com port.

Friday night I was out until almost 9PM, so I got in about an hour or so of operating. Twenty was open, but not great. My CT skills were rusty, and I was feeling my way along. Saturday morning was time to try twenty, then fifteen, then ten. The 3 element yagi at 11 meters brought in plenty of stations, and the Timewave DSP9+ made it possible to listen to one at a time. Saturday afternoon was busy with other chores, then Saturday night was time for forty meters. The vertical seemed to perform about as well as the 160 dipole with balanced feeders. Sunday morning was again time for the higher bands and by Sunday night I had managed 8 or so hours of operating, mostly in one hour chunks.

So, before I knew it the contest was over. 240 QSO's, 64 different DXCC entities, 91k points. It was a blast!!

Highlight - Working XT, for an all-time new one on Saturday morning and JY on 40M on Sunday night. Lowlight - Having the rotor freeze up after a month of mostly single digit temperatures at night, teens in the daytime.

I'm already looking forward to the next CW contest... -- *WS1L*

WB9MII -- Feb 17, 2003 06:38 ET

I had a blast. purely amazing what can be done with 5 watts, a homebrew indoor Joystick antenna from within a condo. -- *WB9MII*

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