

# Contest Soapbox

## 2003 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

41 Soapbox entries available

7J2YAF -- Oct 2, 2003 16:27 ET



Hope conditions on 10 will be alive next year.  
-- *JA1KSO*

NØHF -- Sep 15, 2003 17:53 ET



**NØHF running JA's on 10m Saturday afternoon. Picture taken by Bruce, WW1M who stopped by to snap a few px...**

Wow, it's been a while since I've made top 10 SOSB in any contest let alone ARRL DX SSB! Probably due to low participation or poor band conditions in the normally high scoring areas of the US. Oh well, I'll take what I can get! This year I installed a Cushcraft 10-4 (4 element yagi) which sure worked well compared to my C3SS. Saturday morning was the best time for working Europe. Both days JA's were plentiful beginning around 2pm local time. My Alpha 86 was in for repair so I used the Alpha 99 loaner amp. which I built when employed at Alpha when WØUN was president and CTO back in 1998/1999. Good thing Alpha/Crosslink is nearby! Thanks to all for the contacts. '73 Dan NØHF, Boulder, CO -- *NØHF*

**EA1DDO -- Sep 10, 2003 13:50 ET**



**3 Bands 4 El. Cubical Quad - EA1DDO**

Hi, My main problem was to use just 10, 15 and 20 meters because the antennas for the lower bands had problems, so I did a triband contest. Any way, I enjoyed a lot and I tryed to do the maximum number of QSOs. The propagations was good in the upper bands. I want to thank you to everybody and next year I hope to come back with more antennas. This year I was in contest with an old Drake TR7 + R7 receiver + L7 amplifier. The antenna was a 4 elements triband cubical quad at 20 meters high. For the lower bands was a Butternut HF-2V. Actually I already changed my equipment. The new one is a Yaesu FT-1000 D + Acom 2000 A amplifier and the same antenna.

I hope to see u on the bands...

73, Max -- *EA1DDO*

**PJ2T -- Jul 25, 2003 08:34 ET**



**A post contest photo taken with antennas almost seen a mile away in the background**

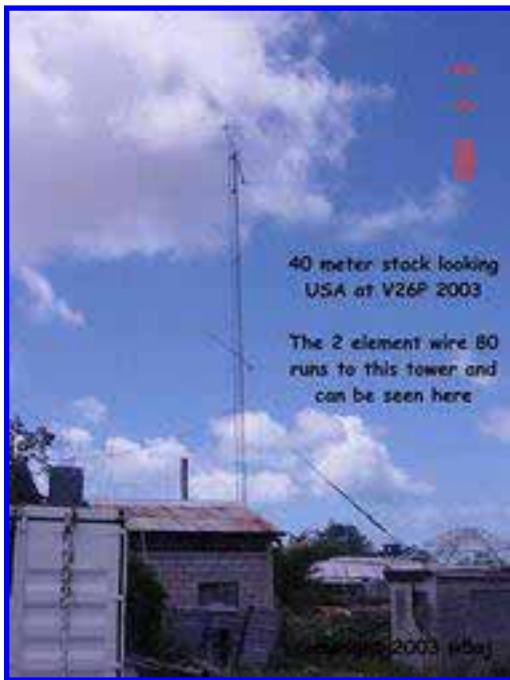
NW0L, WB9Z and AE9B traveled to the Island of Curacao and the awesome contest station of PJ2T with one goal in mind, a #1 World Win, but prior to the contest didn't even know what category they were entering. After deliberation the Multi-2 category (with only 3 operators) was chosen as a best opportunity for a good score. As the team exceeded their goals they reset and strived for new ones. When the air had cleared the 3 tired operators sat exhausted with huge smiles knowing they had given their all and had a good score. The pile-ups were endless and we found out later that all the USA antennas were pointed south. Yes, the RF gods shined on PJ2T that weekend. The beautiful scenery reminded

the 3 Midwest guys that they were in the right place in March. -- *AE9B*

**VK2CZ -- Jun 22, 2003 23:54 ET**

With 565 QSO's on 40 thru 15m on a single DX-88 vertical, and 3 ele 10m beam here in suburban Sydney - I was impressed with snaring 49 states. Wyoming where are you ?? Great to hook up with 'regulars' as well as everyone else too. Nice to eyeball some ham visitors coming thru Sydney too.. John K3MD, Dale VE7SV and Mark XE1B so far in 2003. CU 2004. David VK2CZ -- VK2CZ

**V26P -- May 3, 2003 00:51 ET**



**The forty meter stack. top near 90 feet**

Antenna setup (to USA):

10 - four over four

15 - five elements

20 - three elements

40 - two over two

80 - fixed two element

160 - VEE

If you worked V26P on ten or 40 the stack was on.

Arrived late due to ICE storm in Dallas. Got into KP4 about 2AM. Arrived Thurs afternoon on Antigua and luggage showed up about 11 PM. In our final approach to Antigua - Thanks to the pilots for showing off how well a passenger jet can turn and descend. Don't think I've see a passenger seat that far off vertical!

Setup the K2/100 Thurs night and ran EU with the fixed 3 element 80. This antenna is a joy to use. No outboard filters thurs night on the K2 even with the BBC next door. Checked the North Star and aligned the rotators. A recommended practice in my book.

Discovered the stove was questionable and Friday purchased numerous bottled waters and Slim Fast.

Had SO2R setup with the TS850 making all the QSO's during the test. Had RF problems in shack at certain hours. Got into Audio for short time each day. Used the local PS which has numerous cables to tower switches. RF was from the BBC getting into power supply.

After the contest had dinner with the V26DX operators.

<http://www.qsl.net/v26p/v26dx.htm> -- shows picture of V2 operators. Tnx to the V26DX operators! And what a great group to meet.

Thanks for QSO's ! Robert W5AJ at V26P -- W5AJ

#### **WB6IYM -- May 2, 2003 00:14 ET**



Had a great time!! Worked a personal best number of stations despite my limited antenna (ground mounted Butternut HF6V) and propagation conditions that were markedly worse than last year. Already looking forward to next year. Thanks to all who had the patience to work a weak one.

Charles -- WB6IYM

#### **PV8DX -- Apr 27, 2003 17:30 ET**



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 -- PV8DX

**A station of amateur radio in the Amazonian**

#### **K6ACZ -- Apr 25, 2003 21:11 ET**

I can attest to the decline in propagation this year over last year. Much less DX heard this year to be worked as S&P, SOLP. Still I managed to work ALMOST everyone I heard and make 281 QSO's with 136 Countries. My QSO breakdown by Continent: NA=65, SA=50, EU=55, AS=79, AF=12, OC=20. By Band: 10=84, 15=122, 20=40, 40=35, 80=0 (No antenna for 80).





**K6ACZ Antenna Farm (MFJ Loop and R-7000 vert)**

All the 10 thru 20 meter contacts were made with my 36 inch (1 mtr) diameter MFJ Loop antenna disguised as a T.V. antenna at 25 ft. The 40 meter contacts were made with a R-7000 vertical at 10 ft. Boy, do I hate antenna restrictions! -- *K6ACZ*

**XE2AC -- Apr 11, 2003 13:51 ET**



**C4SXL beaming North (80 FT Tower), Vertical antenna and shack**

Good participation and great Contest ! Best score ever!

Two casualties; The Vertical tribander out of combat on the second day as well the corresponding Passband filter (repaired postcontest). Other than that, everything went fine

Thank you! -- *XE2AC*

**W1JQ -- Apr 14, 2003 19:04 ET**

This year was rough! My biggest effort yet--roughly 34 hours. But the conditions were poor in the Northeast, and every QSO felt like a minor victory. My motley crew of wire antennas performed like champs. I ended up with a few Qs less than last year, and a few more multipliers; did better on every band except 10, where there was never a solid opening to

Europe. (And it's hard to make up 250 Qs!)

On to next year--when the conditions will be even tougher. Thanks for another fun (though not easy) contest! -- *WIJQ*

**6Y8Z -- Apr 2, 2003 08:30 ET**



**Vertical TA-33 JR Beam (6Y8Z)**

Who say's a low height triband beam is a dummy load? This TA-33 JR beam provided a 3-4 S-unit advantage over a trapped vertical into the USA. The result was 5000 Q's during the contest..  
-- *WN9O*

**9A1A -- Apr 2, 2003 06:25 ET**



Somebody use wallpaper somebody something else. This is dedicated ARRL contest wall from 9A1A. It consist last ten years plaques. Former call signs and plaques are not on this picture (read wall).

73 de Robert -- *9A5E*

**K3DI -- Mar 20, 2003 12:31 ET**

To all who observed strange 10-meter propagation in the ARRL SSB DX contest February 28-March 2.... I would greatly appreciate hearing from you so that more information can be obtained and more can be learned.

Please e-mail your observations to me at Fred595@yahoo.com

Tnx es 73,

Fred, W3ICM

The following message was sent to Dr. William Kissick, who has a PhD specializing in ionospheric propagation research.

Dear Dr. Kissick,

I was operating 10 meters at K3DI near Baltimore over the Feb 28-March 2 weekend in the ARRL DX contest.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings and early afternoons, the strength of the European signals on 10 meters was peaking with our antenna (7 elements on 10 meters) pointed to around 100-110 degrees rather than the usual 20-50 degrees. We were getting stronger signals from Europe when beaming towards central Africa!

The strange propagation was most noticeable when I was attempting to work a station in Latvia, whose signal should have peaked at 27 degrees. He had a big pileup, but I worked him easily with the beam pointed to 105 degrees. His signal strength increased noticeably when I pointed the beam to 105 degrees.

Several times during the contest, European stations asked what my beam heading was...there is no time for much discussion during contests, so I didn't ask why they were asking. I now wish that I had discussed their inquiry, but there just wasn't time during the contest.

Another station in the area, N8II, Jeff, in the West Virginia panhandle region, also reported that he had had to swing his beam in several directions to get peak signals from Europe.

From your HF propagation experiences, to what do you attribute this strange propagation phenomena?

73, Fred Matos W3ICM

Fred:

This is unusual; but possible. It seems that you have the main beam aimed about 70 degrees or so off the great circle path towards the equator. That is a lot, but there are two phenomena that could conspire to make this happen. They are:

1. If the propagation path through the ionosphere is complicated (and at times it is), for example: xmtr to the upper F-region, then refracted down to the upper edge of the E-region (assuming some strong sporadic E development usually only after a solar flare and during daytime), then back up to the lower F-region..., then down to the E-region, maybe right through it this time. The point is one can get a "secondary" reflection within the ionosphere upward. And, as you can imagine, there will be some lateral structure of electron density thus one can get an "off-the-great-circle" reflection here. This stuff is more likely at the higher frequencies like you were using.
2. If the above is happening, there are some other effects that may occur. Maybe the phase front (electric field vector or magnetic field vector) of the wave is not perpendicular to the direction of propagation. This can only occur if two components of the same wave are reaching you at "almost" the same time. The composite is not a plane wave therefore the gain pattern of the antenna is not the same as for a plane wave (it could develop a notch in the middle of the main beam and max gain would off boresight). This phenomena would probably only occur if there is some rather complicated reflection mechanisms as described above and the ordinary and extraordinary (circularly polarized but opposite) components of the original (linearly polarized) signal arrive at the receiver at "almost" the same time. Note that these are likely coming from near the great circle path, but the antenna is behaving funny due to the non-perpendicular phase front.

Thanks for describing your experience to me. This is very interesting and I feel like I am stretching things a bit with the above explanation but these things can happen. Assuming your gain pattern is not distorted by other conductors near the antenna, which would always be there, it must be that enigmatic ionosphere. Finally, you report that the Europeans were asking about antenna pointing. That seems to imply that this was really the ionosphere doing something. I think it is quite rare. Please tell me if it happens again.

As a footnote, about two weeks ago I turned on the old HF receiver and was amazed. It has been many decades since I heard such amazing propagation. Signals from all directions were very stable and very strong...from 80 meters all the way up to 20 meters. And, for whatever reason, the 'spherics were very quiet. I think that was Feb. 15.

73's Bill Dr. William A. Kissick, Chief Spectrum and Propagation Measurements Division  
Institute for Telecommunication Sciences National Telecommunications and Information  
Administration 325 Broadway Boulder, Colorado 80305-3337 -- *W3ICM*

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**AB5XZ -- Mar 23, 2003 22:17 ET**

What a great contest! Had to cut my operation short when a neighbor knocked on the door and told me of an RFI problem! We'll fix it and be back for more next year. -- AB5XZ

**DJ1AA -- Mar 11, 2003 09:37 ET**



Thanks thanks thanks to all active ARRL contest peoples from the last year. I had so much nice QSOs and I broke my own QSO record in the ARRL International DX Contest and the result pushed me up to the first place in Germany. It was a really surprise and the award took a nice place in my shack. It was a hard work in 2003 as well. The DX conditions not good enough to reach the same points like last year. But everybody have the same bad conditions and let see..

Soapbox by DJ1AA (Germany), AB0DL (USA), Mirko Holte in QTH Kreiensen, Grid square locator JO41XU, Germany / Europe: I had a lot of fun during this very interesting ARRL International DX Contest 2003. My idea was to reach a good place under the top 10 from Germany. In 2002 I reached the first place under the high power, single OP in Germany and I want to try confirm this good place again. I am not sure about the result. The DX conditions are not the best in the last time and I had really to "fight" to reach a good position. In the night, about 3 hours before the contest started, I decided to built an antenna for the low bands 80m and (160m). On 80m the G5RV inverted Vee works fine mounted high up to 28m over the ground and I got some nice contacts. On 160m I did not heard any DX from US. The 6 element Yagi beam for 10m,15m,20m and 40m worked fine as usually in the past. Thanks to those of you they gave me really good confirmation with a special separate rapport. It makes me very happy, because I worked for my antenna system a long time and want to create a powerful setup step by step. I hope you have enjoyed good signals from my European side. Best regards to all of you and I hope to hear you in upcoming future contests again. By the way, special thanks to Frank, DL1OFD, he helped me during the preset phase to bring up this kind of experimental wire inverted vee G5RV antenna. We finished the outside work in a record time, 2 hours before the contest 2003 starts. It was a night shift work with a powerful 500 watt lamp. Frank did some digital pictures during the



outdoor working on my "antenna farm".. as well. Thanks Frank. Please find attached some contest impression photographs. 55/73 and good DX, Mirko DJ1AA / AB0DL in Germany - Europe -- *AB0DL*

**DJ1AA checked the coaxial cable. The tower in this moment is turned down to 12m and I put it to the side. So the service for my antennas is possible in the winter time as well.**



**The antennas flying high.. up to the sky.. or better ready for take off. The experimental G5RV inverted vee up to 28m over the ground can start. Did you get my signs via the atlantic ocean to state side on 80m good enough ?**



**After the outside antenna setup I checked the SWR and made a couple of QSO around Europe on 80m and 160m. Everything works and Frank, DL1OFD took his digital camera and made a shoot of me..hi. Normaly I have to save my manpower for the coming up 48 hours contest, but I want to check it out all. In this moment, I had about 2 hour 45 minutes countdown before the contest starts at 00:00 UTC.**



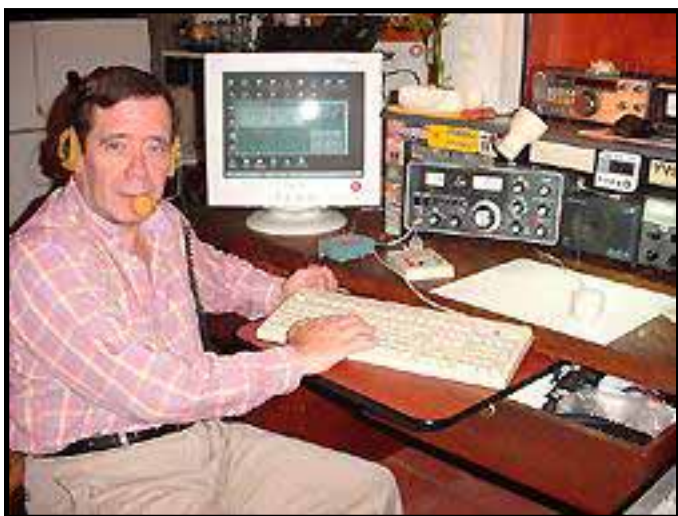
After the first long active night, operating a lot of 40m split with QSX and 80m with the new inverted vee G5RV, I made this photograph of the tower. On the top there is a 5,5m long vertical for 145 and 430 MHz and I mounted the highest point of the G5RV on the top of the VHF/UHF vertical..hi. So I reached 28m up from the ground and I want to hear something from the US on 160m, but no chance. Lets see next years in the coming up sunspots minimums. The 6 element yagi works perfectly for 10m, 12m, 15m, 17m, 20m and 40m as well. So I need the wire only for 80m and 160m.



Finally, after a long time of contest operation in the ARRL 2003, I was happy to reached the most of the different US states. My idea was to reach all states on all bands during one weekend, but this is only a dream..hi. By the way, I want to confirm EVERY contact with a QSL card. If it is possible, please send me your card via the bureau DARC. If you are very interested in exchange directly, please SAE and 2 US\$ or 1 IRC (This is the price for one letter by airmail from Germany to US). Thanks in advance. Best greetings Mirko DJ1AA / AB0DL

Any coments are welcome: [dj1aa@darc.de](mailto:dj1aa@darc.de) / [www.dj1aa.de](http://www.dj1aa.de)





**During the contest**



**With YV5OHW to the right of the picture**



The ARRL has always been one of my favorite contest, and one with lots of activity on both the W/VE and DX sides, which made this a very competitive and interesting TEST.

This year contest was simply great on 20 meters with big signals and lots of US/VE stations active, day time propagation was so good that at the pick hours I was able to work several QRP and mobile stations in the middle of the pileups, unfortunately poor propagation from around 06:00 UTC to 13:00 UTC Saturday and 05:00 to 12:00 Sunday didn't allow for a higher score, but in the afternoon at around 21 UTC the band was so wide open that the pileups were huge, and remained that way until around 04:00 UTC on both days, so with a score of 336+ K I'm extremely pleased with the results.

Congratulations to the US/VE operators for keeping an orderly operation and as such allowing for an easy handling of the pileups during the heavy traffic hours, specially on Sunday afternoon, when 509 QSOs were made between 02:01 UTC and 23:59 UTC, I wish all contest were as orderly as this one was.

This year I had YV5OHW as a guest at my QTH, so it was very interesting to have both signals on the air at the same time, YV5OHW on 40 and YV5LIX on 20, the Dunestar RF Bandpass Filters performance was superb with no interference what so ever to any of the two stations despite the fact that both antennas, a 4 elements home brew long boom Yagi for 20 and a commercial 2 elements Yagi by YV5APF Antennas for 40, are in the same tower and both station were running 1 kW, next year I hope to be on 20 again and to have two guests, one on 40 and one on 80.

## The antennas used during the contest

On Sunday I was able to observe YV5OHW while he was on 40 and after I lost propagation on 20 at around 06:00 UTC, and the band was wide open to the US/VE with the average signal on the 20 dB range and some of the stations, specially those from the East Coast, peaking 50 dB and more, stronger than the locals, also at that time the Europeans were very strong over here, so I figure that they also enjoyed a great opening to North America; and after the contest Gregorio, YV5OHW, commented me that he was able to work US stations as late as 13:00 UTC, broad day light at both ends of the path. I hope next year we all can have this kind of activity and propagation again.

Good luck to all and thanks to all those who were in the contest, hope you all did well and see you again next year.

73/DX Jose M. Valdes R. (Joe) YV5LIX

<http://www.yv5lix.org.ve>

-- YV5LIX

**N2BA -- Mar 8, 2003 16:50 ET**



**Jim, KA2FIQ, blossomed in his first ever DX contest at N2BA.**

This is our first multi effort in the ARRL Phone contest in a long while, and we had a blast. After 2 hours of snow shoveling, Jim, KA2FIQ and Brooke, N2BA finally cleared enough driveway to park 2 cars off the road. Then we had to transfer everything to the house through all that snow, and hook everything up. It is amazing we only missed the first 90 minutes of the contest. Jack, K2BMI came us on Saturday, and thanks to a neighbor's kindness was able to park in their driveway, saving him from most of the manual labor.

We operated with one KW station, on the main tower, and a second spotting station running 100 w to a C3. Because we didn't pay attention to band changing rules, we've submitted as Multi-Multi, though I bet we have only a dozen or so disqualifying Q's.

This was KA2FIQ's first DX contest, and I think



The main tower. Inv-V on 160 and 80, 2 el 40, 4/4 on each of 20, 15, and 10.

he really liked it. He started out a bit tentatively at first, but by the end he was quite a heavy hitter. He had a great VK/ZL run in the middle of Saturday night, and some amazing runs on 15meters at sun rise.

It was a lot of fun, operating rather casually, concerned as much about the food and conversation as the DXing....Kind of the only way any of us can take the QRM of a Phone contest. CW....well, that's another matter!  
-- N2BA

#### **KH6/W4MDL -- Mar 7, 2003 16:36 ET**

This was my first attempt at ANY contest. I was only able to be up on the day freqs 10-20, but I had a blast anyways from my modest station. I managed to work just under 80,000 points only working in the day. I think I would have done better if I could have put a little more punch out there. It was hard to get someone to answer such a light CQ from hawaii when KH5RR was blasting away just up the band. HI HI! Can't wait to see how my rookie score compares. In the same respect, hunting for QSO's seemed to be difficult because most stateside stations were not calling CQ, they were hunting themselves as the DX all called CQ. SO, it was very challenging but rewarding. Can't wait for the next one. -- W4MDL

#### **KO4MR -- Mar 6, 2003 17:28 ET**

As usual, I operated only on 10m for the contest. Ten meter conditions were way down from 2002, consistent with the sunspot decline. Saturday morning saw only a skew path opening to Europe from the east coast of North America. Sunday morning saw a half-decent opening into Europe, but nothing from farther east (central or southern Asia) was audible. I guess that I'll break down and buy a tribander this autumn! -- KO4MR





Waiting for 10 meters to open on Saturday morning.

**K2MFY -- Mar 5, 2003 15:50 ET**



My station prior to the contest. This was the "calm before the storm" photo!

Very bad conditions to Europe Saturday morning on 15 meters--the DX peaked up at 150 degrees (SE direction). Conditions did improve later in the day and also on Sunday. Interesting to note the solid CQ calling of US stations from 21.200-21.225 MHz. Sounded like "Kilowatt Alley"--no chance for my 100 watts--had to move up to 21.440 MHz! -- *K2MFY*

**HB9DDO -- Mar 5, 2003 12:06 ET**

The main goal was to complete my WAS with ND and NV still missing. As it was just too much fun working the pile-ups and using N1MM logger I ended with a little more than 1000 QSO's and still managed to get some sleep. I found out too late that Fabio, HB9FAP, with whom (and some others) I enjoyed a multi/single entry last year was entering the single op/high section too. Too late at least to challenge him seriously, hi. But with ND logged on Saturday and NV Sunday afternoon it was a full success. 73, Stephan -- *HB9DDO*





**Club Station HB9CA (August 2003)**

**KF4GL -- Mar 5, 2003 10:13 ET**

Fun contest. I worked 100% mobile Single-Op 10 Meters Low Power! (25 Watts) I picked up a few new countries. I wish there was this much activity on 10 meters all the time. Jim - KF4GL / Mobile Virginia Beach, VA -- *KF4GL*

**KB5TX -- Mar 4, 2003 21:47 ET**



KENDALL ARS - KB5TX. Total Contacts - 416. Claimed score - 237,120. Multi - Multi - South Texas. 160mtrs 6 contacts - 5 countries, 80mtrs 25 contacts - 18 countries, 40mtrs 67 contacts - 38 countries, 20mtrs 82 contacts - 41 countries, 15mtrs 72 contacts - 36 countries, 10mtrs 164 contacts - 52 countries. Contest ran from KC5OEG Backyard Ham-shack. Mostly older Kenwood gear: TS520, 2EA TS820S, TS430S, DX-22B(10mtr all mode). Antennas were: 4ele quad 10mtrs, 2ea 20mtr dipoles, Ivee 40mtrs, Ivee 80mtrs, vert & dipole 15mtrs, and dipole 160mtrs. All low power 100watts. Local Club Member Operators: Jim KK5RZ, Jonathan KD5TEF, Richard KC5OEG, Gary W0ZXO, Don KM5SY, Carl N5DXV, Chuck KD5PEG,

**GARY W0ZXO by the door 15mtr position; BOB W5XW facing the camera at 20mtr position; Chuck KD5PEG taking a break and using his cell phone. Inside KC5OEG BackYard Ham-Shack.**

Bob W5XW, Brian KD5MXD, and Hubert KC5HRN. Support Group: Ruth KD5RDZ, Tony W5VHR, Mark KE5GL, Mike W6WGE, April McDaniel. Visitors: John Graham, Cody Barth, & Elliot Moore. A fun time was had by all. We were open for business for the full 48

hour period except for one 3 hours period where most rested. The bands were not as active as last years contest. The lower score shows. We did not participate on the 160mtr band last year, but did this year. That was a challenge with 100 watts and a dipole, but 6 contacts was better than no contacts. Kendall ARS sponsored the event and supplied most of the food/drinks. Some Operators and the Support Group folks brought some homemade covered dishes. Um-good !!! The local name for our entry into this contest is called "The Gaines Garner DX-pedition." Gaines is a SK and a former member of Kendall ARS Boerne Texas. Our clubs original entry into this contest was organized by Gaines and was held in Big Bend National Park-South West Texas about 7 years ago. Hope to CU all during the contest for 2004. 73 Richard W. McDaniel KC5OEG Boerne, Texas -- *KC5OEG*

**KQ6EE -- Mar 4, 2003 14:57 ET**

I have a lot of fun in the contest. Although I did not stay on the contest all the time like other die-hard tester. I only get in the contest once a while. I used my old TUBE radio: SWAN 500c. I don't have any fancy beam antenna and kilowatt amplifier. I only have a vertical antenna. Well, as long as I can make couple contacts, that is good enough for me. May be I will make a 10 meter beam antenna so I can have more, more fun on next contest. I don't have a digital camera to show all my OLDY. One day I will put my pictures in the Internet. Field Day is the next big event. I will go out and make a lot of contacts with my OLDY and NEWDY 73 HON CHU LOOKING FORWARD FOR THE FIELD DAY -- *KQ6EE*

**W6MLP -- Mar 4, 2003 13:42 ET**

Fun contest. We set up in a semi public location and advertised the activity as a club function for Milpitas Amateur Radio and Electronics Society. We had several vistors and guest operators who go their feet wet in a real contest. We had a lot of fun and plan to do more "public Contesting". Our website is <http://www.w6mlp.org>. Stop in and check us out.

Lloyd -- AA6NX

**PA7DA -- Mar 4, 2003 10:54 ET**

I was very pleased to join your contest. The vertical was dding a good job, here at the salty North Sea Coast. It was a pity that I was not able to work stations in the US district 6 area, because of poor conditions. Next time better. But still I do love ARRL contests.

73 Jaap -- PA7DA

WP3GW -- Mar 3, 2003 22:40 ET



**Search and Pounce... search and pounce and what do I get: DX, DX and more DX. Wished to be on the good old U.S. of A !**

KC1XX, W3LPL, K4JA, N2NT and NQ4A;

that's persistence! Also locally that WP3R, WP3A and NP3BX were the ones active here. At least I announce the contest this past week on local 2 meters nets, so there's no excuse!

What I normally do is search and pounce, but then came a moment where only the DX stations were the strongest. At 22:22 Sunday, I could not resist temptation and began to call on 14.164 Mhz. A few minutes later stations began to answer; and in about 20 minutes had 30 plus stations breaking last years score. Later learned that a station posted me on the cluster (no wonder the pile up!).

There was even an EA7 that wanted to work me but explained the rules, even thou he saw I was from the US (cause the US flag appears under my call in qrz.com), said to him that even Alaska and Hawaii were also considered DX for the contest. So he understood and said goodbye, all this politely (my first own experience was a little ruff), but I'm one those that can pause in a contest and be of help if possible.

That's it for now until.....ummmmmm, Til Field Day 2003, adios!

P.S. Oh! received recently a certificate for last year's contest, another one for the collection: First Place Single Operator Low Power Puerto Rico. -- WP3GW

W7SW -- Mar 3, 2003 20:57 ET

This is one of those times when you wished to be on the other side; so many DX, few fixed W/VE stations.... but the main objective was to at least equal last years score, taking in account my working hours.

With that in mind I began to search, and was overwhelmed by the number of DX stations on the air mostly from the Americas and Europe. If I were in the states, I would surely have made like 50 countries on Saturday morning alone.

I can give faith that the following stations were operating on the same frecuencies on 15 and 20 meters the whole 48 hours of the contest:

Thanks a Million for a GREAT fun time! Appreciate all of your patience since only have dipole antennas here. 73 and See ya soon! Scotty -- W7SW

**W7KPL -- Mar 3, 2003 16:25 ET**



Just great! Beat my claimed CW score 12 contacts. 10 meters really worked well for me. Thanks for all the fun and contacts! Definitely be in the chase next year. Best 73's to all. Jerry W7KPL Scottsdale, Arizona. [jjer101@aol.com](mailto:jjer101@aol.com) -- W7KPL

**HB9DDO -- Mar 3, 2003 14:05 ET**



My main goal was to complete my WAS with ND and NV still missing. As it was just too much fun working the pile-ups and using N1MM logger I ended with a little more than 1000 QSO's and still managed to get some sleep. I found out too late that Fabio, HB9FAP, with whom (and some others) I enjoyed a multi/single entry last year was entering the single op/high section too. Too late at least to challenge him seriously, hi. But with ND logged on saturday and NV sunday afternoon it was a full success. 73, Stephan -- HB9DDO

**AA0MZ -- Mar 3, 2003 13:12 ET**

Thank goodness conditions improved on the second day with a nice opening to EU on 15 meters! Personal best SSB score. TU2XZ was the biggest surprise to find on 10 meters. Some nice QRP signals coming out of Central and South America. Tough working EU and Asia on 40



and 80 meters with 100w on SSB from Kansas, which is a testament to the effectiveness of CW in degraded communications. Thanks to the DX ops for listening patiently for my weak signal. (Where were the ZL contestants???) Won't be long and we will be missing those 10 meter DX contacts. 73, Jim, Wetmore, KS -- AA0MZ

**KD9MS -- Mar 3, 2003 12:59 ET**

Thanks to all of the DX stations who had patience with me this weekend. I had a bad cold and couldn't even say my callsign right because of my "stuffy nose" and fever. I felt terrible but kept plugging along. I had a wonderful time! -- KD9MS

**K3DNE -- Mar 7, 2003 13:48 ET**



**Ed, K3DNE on right with helpful harmonics Derek (middle) and Jake (top, center). The boys always like to visit and "operate" with dad during contests.**

My first full-time attempt at a multiband DX (just 20,15 and 10m - my wires on 160, 80 and 40m work ok for SS but not for DX) contest from my HF challenged home QTH. I decided to try to maximize the club score by operating assisted and logged onto the K4JA telnet site which interfaced extremely well with Writelog. I found myself chasing a lot of spots instead of doing much running which probably lead to my less than expected qso totals but the mults are probably better than if I ran more. Finding a decent run freq, especially on 20m and 15m, was difficult - I suspect due to the decline of activity on 10m and more stations trying to squeeze into 20 and 15m. I was so surprised by the Eu scew path (around 100 degrees to Eu) on Saturday morning that I trudged out in the still knee high snow with my compass to make sure the recent high winds hadn't moved my antenna. 73, Ed -- K3DNE

**WP3GW -- Mar 5, 2003 19:40 ET**

This is one of those times when you wished to be on the other side of the contest, the photo says it all ! Lots of DX but few W/VE calling; pretty good propagation to Europe, but limited to my working hours.

With that in mind, began to look for the US stations and can give faith that I heard the following during the whole contest almost on the same frequencies they used: KC1XX, W3LPL, K4JA,



**Search and Pounce, search and pounce....  
and what do I get: DX, DX and more DX,  
wished to be this weekend in the good old  
US of A !**

So until . . . ummmmmm. . . Fiel. . . no! First IARU and then Field Day 2003. Adios ! - Angel Santana -- *WP3GW*

N2NT and NQ4A and others I don't remember at this moment; that's persistence !

Got to work a few from Canada, even thou there were times when DX were the only ones heard. My goal was to at least equal last year's score. Temptation ran high on Sunday so at about 22:22 began calling on 14.164 Mhz and then a little pile up built and in 20 minutes made about 40 QSO's breaking my own record. Later learned I was posted in the DX Cluster (no wonder!).

Also heard WP3R and NP3BX working and hope they submit their scores, another good challenge and happy to be a multiplier to many.

#### **KO4BB -- Mar 5, 2003 11:57 ET**

What a BLAST! I could only operate about 6 hours, mostly Sunday, but got ~200 Q's and 69k points, with a vertical and 100w. Got a few new countries too (only after I worked Egypt did I find I had the attenuator turned ON!) First time I use computer logging (N1MM), what a great tool. I can hardly wait until my TH7DX goes up! 73, Didier -- *KO4BB*

#### **K1DS -- Mar 4, 2003 23:08 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*

#### **N8FK -- Mar 4, 2003 21:31 ET**

Once again a quick slapped together for me. Started of wed when I relized I would need a antenna for my ground floor condo. So off to the hardware store where I purchased a 5 gallon bucket and lid I then cut a hole in the lid mounting a base from a Tank antenna. Followed by providing a point for radials. I placed the 15ft 6in whip and several 20ft radials out early saturday morning buring the radials in the 8in of snow..... not knowing how it was going to work I fed the coax to my Icom AT-150 tuner than my IC-735 wow tuned 40 20 15 meters great but needed 10m so I made a quick dipole and hung it from my balcony at 8ft. now normaly this would be great antenna system but the location here was poor directly to the west a 4 story

building and to the east and south hills north was clear but I was not trying to work VE's so how did it work? I operated a total of 10 hours between sat and sun. score 50.904 168 qso's 101 multis and hopefully with qsl's goin out today dxcc on 10 and 15.

73 see you next time Brian N8FK PS never ran more than 50 watts amazing I think -- *N8FK*

**K0BJ -- Mar 4, 2003 15:46 ET**

Casual all S&P this time, with some other stuff going on during the weekend. Fun to work Kansas City Club's PJ2T on 6 bands, and QSO friend T31MY (I met Jan and Mike 3 years ago in ZF just after the start of their yachting adventures). I worked to the top of 15 with 2 minutes left in the test, QSYed to 10, logged a JA and it came up as a new mult! Gotta check those mult lists more often.

Worst moment was waking up Sunday morning and scanning 160 quickly - no action. Suddenly heard a loud cw signal..... "CQ DE DU9/N0NM UP 1" I gulped, quickly hit SPLIT and tuned the B VFO, keyed... nothing.... LSB mode -- #\*@( # ..... retuned, called..... nada. Still need that one.

160 2 2

80 7 6

40 4 3

20 93 48

15 137 52

10 94 42

337 QSOs 153 DXCC Countries = 154683 Claimed Score

73 Bruce K0BJ KS -- *K0BJ*

**K9IDQ -- Mar 4, 2003 12:43 ET**

Fantasmagorical! Fun Contest. Worked Martti, EA8BH, on 75 & 160! Met some wonderful folks. -- *K9IDQ*

**KG6ENA -- Mar 3, 2003 10:14 ET**

This was my second ARRL DX contest and I did 3x better than last year. I was confined to 15 and 10 meters because I run loops for those bands. Thanks for all the Japanese stations for responding to my cq's late Saturday night. Loads of fun!!! -- *KG6ENA*

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