

Contest Soapbox

2003 IARU HF World Championships

27 Soapbox entries available

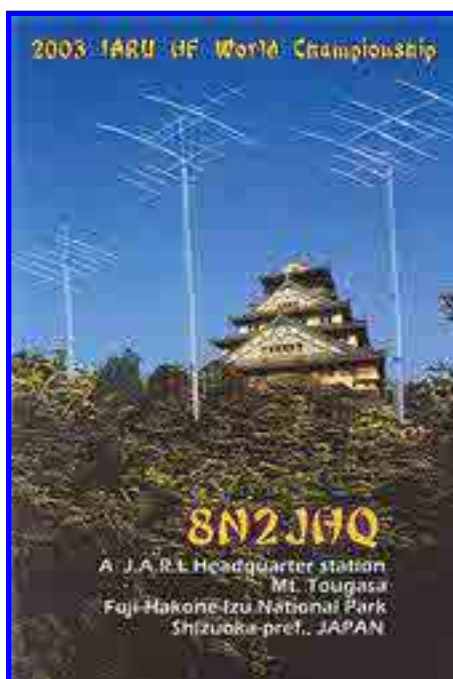
KB9KEG -- Jan 25, 2004 05:50 ET



Conditions were poor this year. But fun was had by all. Past years I worked alot more stations. Hope to see you all next year so 73 and see you in the next contest. -- *KB9KEG*

KB9KEG Contesting from home QTH.

8N2JHQ -- Sep 3, 2003 09:44 ET



Operated 8N2JHQ as team JARL from our conest site. Special QSLs are designed and stations who worked 8N2JHQ in thw contest should receive QSLs through your bureau. Our QSL manager, JH2CMI already sent all cards to your bureau. If you want to receive QSLs direct, you should send a SASE to JH2CMI(CBA)

Rgds, Nob, JA1KSO -- *JA1KSO*

DL2MDU -- Jul 29, 2003 18:49 ET



Good way to prepare myself for the WAEDX-Contest. I missed some JA's! Hope to see them in the WAEDXC with plenty of QTC's vy 73
Chris -- *DL2MDU*

K6WC -- Jul 18, 2003 13:14 ET



I was a bit disappointed in band conditions during the first 12 hours of the contest but things did manage to pick up during the last half. Unfortunately, with all my snoozing, I probably missed some good openings to somewhere. I did manage to work a pinch over 200 with most being U.S. Had intended to work mixed but ended up staying on CW. With my poor CW ability I hope I copied most of those goofy HQ zone letters correctly! Worked 80 - 15 with most on 40 and 20. As you can see from the photo, I do my hamming from the back of a truck. Cushcraft A3S with 40 meter add on and an inverted V all hung on a Force 12 42 foot aluminum tower. Was up 35 feet this time. -- *K6WC*

Out in the sticks - about 3500 feet - I think!

WZ9A -- Jul 18, 2003 00:13 ET

Just started getting active again in the last couple months. Lost my dipole in a spring thunderstorm about 3-4 years ago and just got the bug again. Put up a Titan DX that had been sitting idle and started getting my feet wet again. It's funny how you can have no interest in Ham radio for a while then, BAM! I flipped on the FT990 sat. afternoon, not even realizing that there was a contest going on until I heard the 1st person say "test" after calling cq, then another and another! I jumped right in and never looked back. When I came down in my basement



the "weee" hours

(shack) I was supposed to be getting my swimsuit to go swimming with the xyl. After a while she wandered into my lair, wondering what had happened to me. When I asked her (sheepishly) if she would take a raincheck for the day she was understanding, smiled and said "have fun" and brought me coffee once in a while. What a woman! I didn't break any records but had allot of fun. Thanks to all who had patience with a rusty Ham. Robb -- WZ9A

N3NR -- Jul 16, 2003 22:11 ET



Nick, N3NR

Another very enjoyable IARU contest! Several station improvements, namely a new vertical and amplifier, helped increase my score this year. I took a more serious approach to this years' contest in general.

15 meters did disappoint me, but it seems I wasn't the only one. Did catch a few nice openings on 10 and had some great openings on 160, 80, and 40 meters.

I want to thank all of the European stations I worked on 40 for their comments on the signal this year. Thanks for the encouragement! Believe it or not it's only an old Hy-Gain vertical with 26 radials underneath it (see picture).

See everybody next year! -- N3NR



40M to 10M Vertical Antenna At N3NR

N1IST -- Jul 15, 2003 15:05 ET

I only got a few hours to participate in between trips to the mall (why do they insist on running sales in the middle of a contest :-)

I'm a casual contester - a TS50 into a beat-up R7. The bands were quite poor for most of the day on Saturday, though 20 opened up in the evening. I really need to find my headset with the boom mike and the footswitch, but that would mean clearing up a spot for it on the floor... Made 90 q's, no new countries this time. -- *N1IST*

KG6RJ -- Jul 15, 2003 14:37 ET

I had actually forgotten about the contest until late Friday evening. I had spent the day Friday scavenging parts from my old R5 vertical to repair a bad trap on a second-hand R7 and the subsequent tuning. While checking the SWR, I heard another station testing for the contest. If I hadn't heard him, I would have missed it entirely.

When I started to work the contest on Saturday around 9AM PST, I wasn't sure if the propagation conditions were bad or if I had just done a bad job fixing the R7! I was copying stations in North America only. By early evening, conditions improved somewhat and I managed to log some stations in Europe, South America and the Caribbean. Most of my contacts were on 15 and 20 meters with a handful of stateside QSOs on 10 and 40.

I would have liked better propagation to give the R7 a real work out but still had a lot of fun.

All in all it was a good experience and a chance to exercise the station. Thanks to all the stations I contacted. -- *KG6RJ*

KF4KWO -- Jul 15, 2003 21:36 ET

Made my first real homebrew antenna for this contest - a monoband dipole for 10. I made 5 QSO's with South American stations in 30 minutes, but conditions were really bad. Since the HTX-10 is my only rig right now, I hung it up and decided to try again another day. Gonna try the 10-10 contest in August to see if I should get my dipole higher or just go back to being mobile. -- *KF4KWO*

KH6SH/K7 -- Jul 15, 2003 14:58 ET



Helicopter response to my QTH. No QRI/QRM/QRN noted.

On Thursday evening before the contest, an out-of-control wildfire started on our mountain that garnered my attention all evening long—and it proved to be a factor for several days. An evacuation of our neighborhood was ordered by 0330 local on Friday morning, but I did not see any fire crews dedicated to protecting my ham shack. Donning my nomex flightsuit and garden hose, I remained in position to battle the fire if necessary. Though flames roared within a few hundred feet of the homes, the fire transited away from the neighborhood due to favorable winds. The armada of fire response vehicles, fleet of Slurry Bomber aircraft and helicopters droning through the thick smoke did not really

affect QRN by the start of the contest. I tried using the on-going conflagration threat as an excuse not to go into work during the contest, but that did not even get me a cup of coffee from the boss. I was only able to operate for eleven hours as my Air Force unit had a flying exercise through the weekend. I spent the other 13 hours of the contest in full chemical gear and gas mask with local temperatures at 39 deg C (102 deg F). All I could think about was all the European, Central and South American contacts I was missing. Perhaps the natural disasters and Air Force schedulers will cooperate next year. Mahalo to those who were around all night long on 7 and 3.5 CW!! P.S. There are no sleep-cycle issues if you just do not go to sleep!! Aloha!! -- *KH6SH*

XE2AC -- Jul 15, 2003 10:40 ET

Changed my mind on the last minute and decided to operate CW only -instead of mixed, when learned about the propagation reports.



80 Ft Tower and Shack

No SO2R this time due to one of my Band decoders went QRT before the test (Operator's error not Dunestar).

Strange condx, worked more EU than JA's stations.

Good participation of HQ stations

10m was dead. 15M weaker than expected 20M the workhorse 40M condx improved over time allowing good condx to EU 80M Noise concert 160M surprised to work some NA stations that overcame the noise wall

Most of the operating time, the static noise level was very bad. Many thanks to the stations who patiently repeated their calls.

It was a challenging and enjoyable test!

Radio: FT-1000MP, Antennas: Force12 C4SXL @ 80ft.+ Alpha Delta DX apex @ 70ft.
Software: CT 9.89.002 Laptop 486/75 under DOS

Vy 73 Luis XE2AC Aguascalientes, Mexico DL81uv -- XE2AC

IT9ORA -- Jul 15, 2003 08:35 ET

Hi to everybody, I am very happy to have participated in the contest, I have connected a lot of stations HQ and I suppose to have made many multipliers, I could not hope for a best result, considering that I went with vertical and dipole and solo 100 wattses, good DX to all hi de Gianni
IT9ORA -- IT9ORA



S51J -- Jul 15, 2003 06:53 ET



Nothing changed on location from last year!

HAM is still fun for me! -- *S51J*

IO3P -- Jul 15, 2003 02:58 ET

...primo contest con delle antenne eccellenti dall'ottima stazione allestita da IV3TMV... E'

Location was the same as last year with my old call sign S51JM. Weather conditions were much much better then last year, but full moon made it's best. I swear to myself that I will never go to contest under full moon! I agonized two hours with my new FT-920 radio, to found out that the Shift button is turned full left. Result was only 37 QSO's in that time period. When I put up my new Windom 160-10m antenna, I overlooked that one part of the wire (covered with plastic) touches the anchoring wire of the tower. So the SWR was from time to time very bad, and working on 40m was imposible, because my computer went crazy. Probably because of high SWR. On 160m, my friends from S50HQ, working on SSB from the nearest hill with high power, made so many noise, that I managed to work only 10 stations (strong ones). So, too much mistakes and troubles in one day. But now, few days later, I can only lough.



mancata nella notte di sabato una buona apertura con USA e questo è ben visibile nel punteggio raggiunto. Grazie a tutti ed al prossimo. Mat -- *IZ3EYZ*

RA9FTM -- Jul 15, 2003 01:58 ET



I guess, it was "Aurora" with the silence on HF before the contest... But after its beginning, the bands were opened immediately... It became possible to work from rural QTH on very simple antenna (3.5 MHz Inv-V)... -- *RA9FTM*

W1JQ -- Jul 14, 2003 21:27 ET

Operated a bit here, a bit there; had to work the contest in around a trip to the farmers' market, a trip to the library with my daughter, a trip to the beach, a trip to a town party, and the local not-quite-the-fourth-of-July fireworks. It's amazing I got any time in at all!

Conditions were interesting, to say the least. I worked one of the Italian HQ stations on 10 meters at about 6PM local time--they weren't loud, but they were making the trip. That's enough to suggest that there was a more significant opening earlier in the day--but I certainly missed it, and I don't know anyone else who had any significant luck on 10. -- *W1JQ*

PA0MIR -- Jul 14, 2003 16:11 ET

Always fun to participate in the IARU test. This year I even planned my holiday to start just a day after the contest, so really in a hurry to prepare the log. Hope I did not leave too many errors as my logging software only permits 4 letters. OL3HQ on my contact nr. 10 gave out zone 28 instead of the CRC they should have sent, so I corrected this after a later contact with the station, otherwise would count too many points! I think the AC, R1, R2 and R3 contacts

should get the full continent point-value; also according to the rules NU1AW should get 3 or 5 points as IARU is not a member society! So please consider the scoring programs and publish clearly so the contest programs can take it in account. -- *PAOMIR*

DH5ST -- Jul 14, 2003 11:34 ET

Poor start on Saturday, but conditions improved during the contest.

Used the contest to test my FT-817 and to work a few new DXCCs on the upper bands. With the right antenna QRP was no problem !

Nice contest ! Fun as usually ! Tnx !

73/72 de Ingo DH5ST -- *DH5ST*

HP3XBS -- Jul 14, 2003 09:39 ET

Suggestion to give splattering stations 50% penalty of their score. Never seen so much splattering, some 8 kcs wide. -- *HP3XBS*

WO4O -- Jul 14, 2003 09:39 ET

While this is fresh in the mind of LOW POWER ops, please consider taking the following actions to effect change by the decision makers of the rules:

Include LOW POWER to your category listing on your Log and/or Summary sheet (even though there is NO LOW POWER category).

Add to your SOAPBOX comments: Increased participation = LOW POWER category

Send E-mail requesting rule change to add LOW POWER category to IARU HF World Championship to n1nd@iaru.org (sri Dan -- but you're the contact for contest info according to the web site -- and the ARRL Awards Committee acts for the IARU Int'l Secretariat -- supply an alternate e-mail address and we'll redirect)

Plan for next year: LOW POWER ops make ONLY ONE QSO and submit log to the sponsor.

Any other actionable ideas?

73 Ric Wo4o

...-.- -- WO4O

HA5X -- Jul 14, 2003 07:29 ET



The AYAN139 mobile antenna with the counterpoise wires on the balcony as used during the 2003 IARU HF Championship, and my desk at my new QTH. Small apartment, small station. I hope you have enjoyed the contest as much as I have.
73 de Chris, HA5X

It was great fun! I used a new call sign and a brand new radio from my brand new apartment. I just threw a mobile whip with a magmount on the balcony rails a few minutes before the contest. Two wires lying randomly on the small balcony floor acted as counterpoise. I am very surprised to have worked so many stations, especially quite a few DX among them. My new transceiver worked nicely, and the contest helped brush up my CW, not used for a few years now.

Pity that my computer froze on bands other than 20m, so apart from 3 QSOs I remained on 14MHz. Would be great to have single band and mobile categories. 73 de Chris -- HA5X

ON7VZ -- Jul 14, 2003 04:07 ET



Nice contest despite my poor contest rig (100 W and only a G5RV/Half size as antenna...) and the usual XYL-QRP problem (it's the summer....) with only 12 hours of S&P operation. I had the chance to make new DXCC's (9M6, OJ0 and 5U) even if the propagation was quite limited to Europe at the beginning. General conditions slightly increase at the end of the contest. I will try to do better next year. Tks to all the operators I have contacted. Best 73's. Daniel. -- ON7VZ

K7ED -- Jul 13, 2003 23:07 ET

"Oh, conditions outside are frightful and the rate is not delightful. But despite the aurora's glow, QSO, QSO, QSO!"

Not the best conditions, but operating in a team makes it a lot easier to power on through and keep logging. WA0RJY and I activated the Paladin Contest Club call, K7ED, as one of the WRTC-Style Teams operating low-power multi-single under modified WRTC-2002 rules. (For complete info on this contest-within-a-contest, see <http://summitschool.com/faculty/wrtcrules.html>)

We didn't even hear a European for the first six hours of the contest, but 20-meters kept the rate



WA0RJY and N0AX are hard at work pulling teeth, er, signals out of the aether.



The Mighty K7ED Paladin Contest Club Array of Hardware!

meter alive and we figured it was bad for everybody, so just go! This simplified the use of the second radio greatly. "Is 15 still dead?" "Yeah" "OK, you want to call CQ for a while?" "No, go ahead."

As with most contests, life becomes a relative thing after you get used to the flow of a particular contest. Pushing the rate meter to a new high (such as it was) and comparing performance between the operators generally takes center stage, and this contest was no different. Working a new HQ station, or seeing the bands gradually come back to life are the fun moments - such as an LZ2/QRP calling in on 20 after the big HQ stations CQ'ed in our face for an hour. Totally unexpected.

We did enjoy good 20-meter conditions on Saturday night (EU sunrise opening) and it's obvious that the EU teams in our competition had quite a lot more to work on 10-meters. There's always next year, right?

Since we were limited to the single-wire antenna on 160-80-40, I put up a new 40-meter Extended Double Zepp (80' of wire on either side, fed by 76' of 450-ohm window line) that did quite well. I would like to give this antenna a workout when conditions are better. It loaded nicely with the internal tuner on 80 and 40 as designed, and even took power well on 160 - completely unexpected and we were rewarded with a smattering of QSOs on Top Band. The high band antenna was a 3-element SteppIR yagi that kept us going and got through pileups quite well. Nothing was easy with 100-watts, but all in all, the antennas did fine. Radios were an FT1000MP and FT847 with Inrad filters and some external gadgetry to share audio between the operators. Running TR in a two-PC network completed the station.



I hope you all had fun - thanks to the other 17 teams that participated in the WRTC-Style Competition. We'll definitely run this again next year!

73, Ward N0AX -- *N0AX*

Our 40-meter Extended Double Zepp feedline disappears into the pine tree. 80-something feet of wire slope north and south on either side. Worked great, even on 160!

N6RCE -- Jul 14, 2003 02:16 ET

Band conditions started out poor. By late evening, conditions had improved and the far off contacts were starting to come in. Then they got better. On the West Coast, we started to hear the J's come up. Well worth staying awake for! -- *N6RCE*

NR9A -- Jul 13, 2003 21:17 ET



After being off the air since 1997, it was great to be back in the contesting mode, even though it was a casual effort. Antennas for the low bands were not the best, so I was pretty well limited to 10, 15, and 20, although I did make a few on 40 and 80. The rotor hung up at about 11PM, and had to make a trip up the tower in the dark to give it a nudge to get it going again. That's all it took! Had a great time! -- *NR9A*

**Don't mind the shack... I'm practicing for the
"Messy Shack Award"!**

KK6TV -- Jul 13, 2003 18:13 ET

I didnt realize the contest was this weekend till my buddy Carl AG6X handed me a copy of the rules on friday. Started out making a few casual contacts which was my prevailing attitude. A minor rig problem kept me off 20 Meters but still had a great time on 15 and 40. -- *KK6TV*

NA4IT -- Jul 13, 2003 14:48 ET

Well, I almost forgot about the contest. I guess you would call me a "casual contestor". But I had a good time. Most of my operation was search and pounce. The usual gremlins were around, you know, bad band conditions, having to stop to do a Skywarn net on 2M, phone calls, bedtime, etc. But, I do it for the fun and the experience! Looking forward to seeing some good scores from the other ops. -- *NA4IT*

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