

Contest Soapbox

2003 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

21 Soapbox entries available

W1JQ -- May 17, 2004 12:58 ET

I said I'd be back, and I was. Just forgot to file a soapbox comment. Anyway, went from 4 QSOs to 200+, with an improvement in my score of something like 100,000%. Not exactly a record-breaking or leader-challenging entry. But still lots of fun. -- *W1JQ*

K1LT -- Jan 7, 2004 00:00 ET



First ARRL 160 from new 15.6 acre QTH near Lancaster, Ohio. Transmitting antenna was 40 foot "T" with 40 110 foot radials. Beverages for 7 directions ranging from 500 feet to 1000 feet long. IC765, ETO 91B amplifier (thanks, K8ND). Hope to have the house finished by DX test! -- *K1LT*

K1LT operates in the basement of his unfinished (but fortunately heated) house while NZ8R takes pictures.

W7DRA/0 -- Jan 2, 2004 13:35 ET

Again this year I visited my daughter and family, bringing along my modified HW16 with 6AG7 vfo. I ran only 5 watts which did cut down on the QSO total a bit, and I did not work the west coast at all. I am constantly amazed at the propagation from Nebraska compared to my house in Seattle! -- *W7DRA*



W7DRA/0 Blasting away with 5 watts

AK9F -- Jan 2, 2004 12:53 ET



The AK9F Multi-S group celebrates another successful ARRL 160 Meter Contest operating from the great station of WB9Z.

From left, Will K9FO, Howard AK9F, Jerry WB9Z, Don K9NR and Carl K9CS. This group has been teamed on 160 meters for over 20 years and consistently places in the top ten. The 2003 effort resulted in 1,353 Q's, 78 US/VE sections and 25 countries for a total of 291,696 points.

This year, we used the call AK9F to celebrate Howard's 50th year in amateur radio. First licensed in 1953 at 12 years old in Iowa, Howard was WNØZYC, then a short time later, upgraded to General and WØZYC.

The station transmits from a 160 foot series fed vertical tower with 120 quarter wave radials and receives with numerous Beverage and pennant antennas. WB9Z is located in the middle of the midwest's "Black Hole" on Jerry's farm near Crescent City, Illinois and is a member of the Society of Midwest Contesters. -- AK9F

KB2EBL -- Jan 3, 2004 06:02 ET

Had a Great time in the contest-am looking foward to next year. Rig was a Yaesu FT-847/5 watts into either an Inverted L or V as needed 73 all C U Nxt YR--KB2EBL -- KB2EBL



W1EOF -- Dec 28, 2003 06:24 ET

My first time on 160M contest and I'm hooked on the TopBand! I was totally unprepared. Jumped into the contest at the last minute using a quick lash-up on the feeders of my 80M dipole. It was a lot of fun to just relax and work stations. I picked up 26 states for my 160 WAS in the process. Next year will have a much better antenna setup for sure. -- *W1EOF*

K7OA -- Dec 25, 2003 15:39 ET



ARRL 160 Meter CW Contest 2003

As usual, a very interesting event. I didn't have much luck with 1 land or DX this year. Don't feel bad if you missed Hawaii and Alaska this year. I missed them too and that is very rare from this location. Thanks to all for the contacts.

I am sending a photo of my vintage station. RCVR National NC300 TX Johnson Viking 1 Viking VFO (with a real "glow in the dark" 4D32) Antenna 70 foot vertical with 8 130 foot

radials

Keying the rig with a memory keyer, Brown Bros. paddle, and/or the computer in combination with a solid state timing circuit for full QSK.

73 K7OA -- *K7OA*

N0PB -- Dec 21, 2003 15:29 ET

I hadn't had the chance to look here until recently.. Noticed not many comments, so here is mine. I had almost forgotten the contest.. Wasn't real fired up since I never got the time to do more antenna work on the new tower.. All I had up at was a inverted-vee at 97 ft level. No receive antennas at all out yet. I decided to at least play around a bit because it had been quite a long time since I had been very active on the band. I had lots of fun and got to work several people I hadn't worked in a long time.. Almost had WAS the first several hours of operating.. Boy, my CW was terrible.. Where were the Alaska stations hiding? Only state I missed.. Great fun !! Maybe can be better prepared next time.

73, Phil NOPB Missouri -- *NOPB*

K0BJ -- Dec 19, 2003 11:54 ET

Kansas Low Power inverted L tx/rx

QSOs = 204 Sections = 57 Countries = 4 Total Score = 25,803 Operating Time (hrs): 3.5

As was the case last year, this was a one night contest for me as our club helped at WX0GLD in Skywarn Recognition Day. On top of that, I delayed my entry into the foray while watching the awesome Kansas State (W0QQQ) Wildcats' QRO performance against the formerly-QRO Oklahoma Sooners.

A second tower (54' tilt-pole) has been in the works here and I plan to run Beverages from it. Had hoped it would be QRV for this but the cold wx finally QRXed construction. Next year.....

Lots of fun to work T32WW after meeting those guys at the Rocky Mtn. Division convention in Estes Park CO. -- *K0BJ*

K7OX -- Dec 17, 2003 19:42 ET

Well conditions were not very good up here in the Pacific Northwest at 48 Degs North. Usually at the begining of the contest can work stations around the state while still daylight. However, didn't hear a signal until an hour into the contest when I worked KG7H over in Idaho which is about 70 miles NW of Spokane, WA. Very little east coast stations worked the first night. Conditions seemed a little better the second night, at least hearing and working the East Coast but still missed 3 states for a WAS. The bright side was working two new countries, T32WW and J8DX which now gives me 79 countries in my quest for DXCC on Top Band. I launched and used my 1/4 full size vertical balloon the first night. However, bad weather i.e., very high winds and rain/snow cause me to loose the balloon around 6AM local time Saturday morning. The second night it was still very windy so finished out the contest using my back up antenna which is a shunt fed tower which seemed to work OK. See everyone next year. Seasons



Greetings to all and to all a Good Night.

73 Gary K7OX -- *K7OX*

K7OX launching balloon to support a full size 1/4 vertical for 160.

NX9T -- Dec 16, 2003 15:19 ET

Lots of fun! Really enjoyed the contest this year. Last year we had a big ice storm that took out our power, etc...for days. Not so this year thankfully. Only was able to play for a few hours but kept the rate up reasonably well even while S/Ping. Thanks to all for the fun time on 160cw. 73, Jeff www.qsl.net/nx9t -- *NX9T*

K4VU -- Dec 14, 2003 19:01 ET

Decided at the last minute to give the 'test a whirl. Figured with the 100 ft. wire at 25 feet and 100 watts, I wouldn't have too much luck. How wrong was I! 370+ Qs, worked 45 states and 7 countries. Even heard a couple of Europeans coming through, but no way I was gonna bust through that huge wall of east coast RF. All in all, I had a blast. Next year, we'll get some real antennas out there and see what happens. -- *K4VU*

KJ7WY -- Dec 12, 2003 18:04 ET

Wow guys great contest! It is interesting to hear all those famous hams during this contest. K1GUN, in Maine, came back to my CQ as well as so many Topband big guns. I also wish to thank so many contesters, especially those east of the Mississippi River, who came back to my call. To those whom I couldn't copy, sorry. Sometime I wish that you would sent your call several times in a row, while I switch antennas and processing. Missed Alaska and Rhode Island for contest WAS. I still need Rhode Island to earn 160 CW WAS, so if you read this.... A new 3/8 vertical and pennant rx antenna really helped me to do a personal best for the contest. Next year, multi-op as my wife is expecting! 73's Pete KJ7WY -- *KJ7WY*

N8XD -- Dec 10, 2003 17:01 ET

This was my first try at the 160m CW contest, and I loved it! I was using a Yaesu FT-897 (100w). The antenna was a tuned-up 80 meter loop strung around the trees in the back yard. From Michigan, it worked well throughout the whole east half of the US and Canada. No contacts west of Colorado though. Thanks everyone for participating, it certainly made my first time memorable! -- *N8XD*

WA3KYY -- Dec 10, 2003 12:11 ET

This contest was a whole lot of fun. Despite only staying up until 0500Z each night I managed 36 sections including 13 new states. Nebraska was the farthest west I managed to work although I heard Wyoming, Colorado and North Dakota. In fact there were quite few stations I could hear that weren't hearing me. Next time I'll have to stay up later and see if I can work some 6s and 7s. I really appreciated all the operators who took the time to make sure the call and exchange were correct, several were new states for me.

73 and see you on Top Band.

Mike -- *WA3KYY*

AD4TJ -- Dec 9, 2003 19:59 ET

Strange conditions! Worked both Hawaii stations, KH7R and KH6ND, but couldn't complete with any California stations! Heard no Europeans, but then again, I had no beverage antennas, either! Had to use the lowly inverted-L for both xmit and receive. Bummer! Used Packet for the first time hoping to spot the elusive state of Alaska, but saw no spots. Maybe next year.

-- *AD4TJ*

K6EI -- Dec 9, 2003 14:36 ET

I had a blast working T32WW (Christmas Island) with my mighty 5 watts early on Saturday morning.

A buddy was kind enough to lend me his Elecraft K2 for the contest, so I took advantage of having both a transmit antenna (an inverted L) and a lower-noise 10-foot diameter receive antenna. This arrangement definitely helped when the QRN levels got above S5 the first night.

Suggestion next year: Since almost everyone sends 599 as part of the exchange, why not substitute power level (H for high, L for low, Q for QRP) instead of RST? This would make the contest more interesting for the participants. Working a distant station partially buried in noise would be far more meaningful if I knew he was running 5 watts instead of a kilowatt. -- *K6EI*



KB7V 160m Antenna

After a long absence from the ARRL 160 meter contest I was very happy to be able to work the contest this year. A major problem I had to overcome was getting a reasonable signal on the air from my small residential lot in Southern California. My solution was a home-brew center-loaded vertical antenna worked against several radials and an iron fence. The antenna is about 27 feet tall and includes a capacitance hat. While pretty short for this frequency I was very pleased that I could work most stations I could hear. Most of the stations I called came back to me and I was even able to call CQ and work a number of stations, even those that were very weak to me. Propagation didn't seem to be all that great this year and most of the stations I worked were west of the Mississippi. In all I worked 43 sections, including all sections in the 6, 7, and 9 call areas

and most in the 5, 8, and 0. It was a lot of fun but now I need to get some sleep. I hope to see you all again next year!

73, Paul -- *KB7V*

This was my first CW contest. It was real fun to be able to work everyone. I have never heard so many CW stations on 160 meters before.

I was suprised to be able to work a stations as far as Colorado.

My setup here is a dipole antenna that is laid on top of the roof of my house. It is about 75 feet long. 5 feet of the wire drapes over the edge of the roof. A ladder line is connected to the center of this antenna and leads down to a window. The ladder line connects to a tuner that connects to a Yaesu FT-920. For all of the contacts I used around 10-12 watts of power.

With such a less than ideal setup, I was surprised to be able to make the contacts that I made. Next year I will have a better setup.

For the last 9 months I have been working on getting my CW speed up. It really helped with this contest.

I would like to say thank you to all the other contesters and the ARRL for making this contest possible. -- *KN6N*

WB8RFB -- Dec 8, 2003 19:17 ET

Since I didn't earn enough points to place first in any category, I may as well be the FIRST to make a comment!

In more than 31 years of being a licensed ham, this was my very first 160 Meter contest and I had fun. It was on a whim that I even got on as my only forray on 160 before was a one-time QSO a few months back.

I wasn't even sure my 200' random wire would even tune up, but it managed to with some help from a Heathkit tuner. There were lots of stations to work for the first few hours and then it got to be kind of slim pickings. That was probably due more to having an inadequate antenna than anything else.

Sure heard some of the big guns working station after station. All in all, it was a good time, and fun to work CW at moderate speeds and to meet some first class op's. Many of them hung in there to capture my information in the exchange and that is much appreciated.

73 to all from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Hope to be back in there next year with a better signal.

John -- *WB8RFB*

W8IJN -- Dec 8, 2003 12:42 ET

Not as much reaching into the deep west DX this year as last, but fun all the same. However, next time I'll go looking for buzzing street lights a couple weeks in advance. Local QRN cut me down to just two log pages! -- *W8IJN*

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