

Contest Soapbox

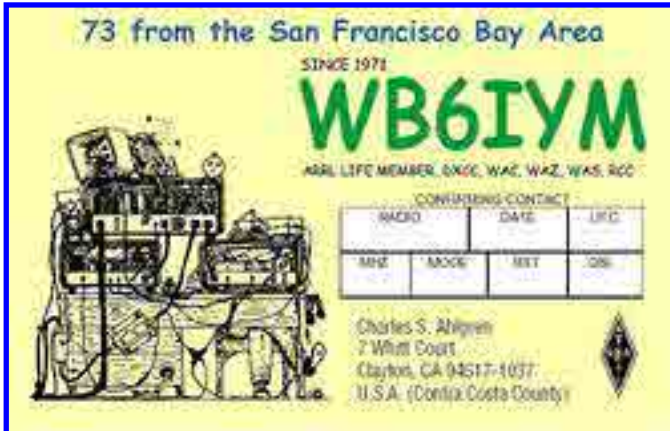
2003 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

43 Soapbox entries available

EA6TU -- Jun 4, 2004 03:10 ET

Finally this year I have everything ready for the 10 meter contest: 1st. class license, station & hollidays during the contest, the conditions are very low on this area, the band was just open for some hours each day, but anyway I enjoy it. Hope to cacht you on the next year's edition. 73's de Pep ea6tu@ure.es -- *EA6TU*

WB6IYM -- May 2, 2004 21:08 ET



My QSL Card!

My second effort in the 10-meter event. Although my antenna system continues to be less than adequate, to say the least, I had a lot of fun fooling around. Conditions were no where near as good as last year, but still managed to work my share of DX.

Hope to CU all again next year.

73's and GL to all my fellow contesters,

Charles -- *WB6IYM*

K8NMU -- Mar 4, 2004 00:40 ET

Tough sledding with a tri-bander at 15 feet and low power from Upper Michigan. Lot's of aurora, snow, wind, and most of all..... fun! -- *K8NMU*

DUIEV -- Jan 19, 2004 01:24 ET

Very poor propagation this year. Good thing we had another amateur activity lined up--- we held an ARRL VE exam session during the same day. Do we get some points for this?? Just kidding ;) -- *DUIEV*

JA6WFM/HI8 -- Jan 3, 2004 14:33 ET

Thank you for the many QSO at the ARRL10M contest from Republica Dominicana. I made contact over 900 with quater wave vertical. 2004 I will try again with big antenna from HI8 hi.73 Hiro NAKAMURA -- *JA6WFM*

TI2KAC -- Dec 30, 2003 14:11 ET

Nice Contest, So Hard with 5 watts. The Best Propagation in 10 meters since 3 years in Costa Rica. Thanks to all for playing. 73 Carlos -- *TI2KAC*

N8II -- Jan 3, 2004 11:22 ET

What a difference a year makes! Openings to Eu were spotty and short. It was pretty impossible to catch all of the mults available in Eu on both modes. I only worked as far East as OK and OE direct path plus RW1ZA in the noise on a polar opening. The NE and SE USA had much better condx. My only good Eu run was on CW for about 25 mins around 1430Z Sunday, mainly working G's. To the west USA was also a struggle with the 8's (in OH/MI), 9's and NE/SE USA having a decided edge. The band was seldom open to more than a small area well at one time. Either AZ/CA was loud and no Pacific NW or vice-versa. It even took a while to work OR on both modes. VE6 was loud for only a few minutes here and there and VE5ZX was in the noise, never hearing me. I kept plugging away and the frequent Es openings filled in a lot of otherwise tough states, but not good for a lot of volume. This test is too close to Christmas; it won't be worth a full-time effort next year with probably worse condx. Thanks for the Q's and pulling me out of the noise. -- *N8II*

VK4JSR -- Dec 28, 2003 15:35 ET



Another great contest.... although my time in the shack was limited! 10m held it's head high, when the band should have been dead condx between VK and W were fantastic. 10m stayed open to W for at least 10 hours each day. I missed the EU short path window when Joe GJ0NYD dropped in for a visit on Sat night! Large thunder storms both Sat and Sun nights shut activities down earlier than expected. Best DX of the weekend was certainly A61 longpath

while working a W pileup... a real buzz. See you all next year. Scott -- *VK4JSR*

W1JQ -- Dec 29, 2003 08:56 ET

Lots of fun, even for an on-again, off-again entry. Nice (though short) opening to Europe Saturday AM; the solar numbers made me hope that Sunday would be better, but it wasn't. On

the whole, conditions were poor.

I wasn't particularly well set up for this contest; I didn't put up my wire yagi facing S, and my main antenna was partially lowered because of storms. Still, managed to scrape together an even 500 Qs. -- *WIJQ*

YP3A -- Dec 20, 2003 07:30 ET

Whuff! So hard conditions, sunday more bad... JA's? Where were they? Not only one in the whole weekend as multiplier? W's? I know that in an ARRL Contest they are hundreds of them! This time only 40 in CW (due to an 30min opening on saturday afternoon) and 10 in SSB (lucky to catch them sunday to make 6 states!!!). Whith the southern emisphere the condx were better, whit good sigs from SA stations, even at 22-23 local time!!! Both days, in the morning the propagation started from OC, but never coming to JA. It was like a borderline there, working DU, YB, HS, but not only a signal from JA, HL, 9V, UA0 passing to this side. Some UA9 and eastern EU came in with weak sigs, but was OK with the EU west coast (strong sigs even from the QRP stations from EA, CT, G, sometimes F). Central EU only time-to-time. Saturday afternoon I was expecting better condx, but only a single opening to the NA gave me the permission to work 12 states on the East Coast for the multiplier. That borderline was also to the west passing to the centre of NA!!! I was very frustrated to see that the west EU's are working NA stations (especially CT's) wich I couldn't hear, but they are closer to NA so the opening was larger and they got Central NA. Didn't hear someone working W6! With the Central America the propagation was flutting, with up and down sigs. Saturday evening central and west EU started to come in so the rates were going up (finally, after such a hard day) but only few new mults (like 3A; I missed T77C, couldn't find him anywhere). NA and EU sides were working on the same band with no passing signals. In the late evening some skew path openings to SA. I expected also to NA, but never coming :(so I ended the first day with 680 QSO's, almost like UU7J and LZ9W, one of my objectives :) Sunday - DISASTER!!! I could see how the QSO number of the opponents is getting up and mine was blocked around 700, with very slow rates of 5-10 QSO/h so my hopes were down, also the top 10 dream! There were moments when no one cold be heard anywhere in the band. In the morning, for the JA's I tried also long path, with no result. An opening to OC with good sigs from 3-4 VK's made me believe that we'll have a better day. In the afternoon I focused to SSB hoping to catch another NA opening(like sunday) to make the multiplier, but only few big guns worked (more of them from FLA). The strangest thing in this contest was that sunday afternoon, about 12z, I could hear just ONE station in the SSB band CQ'ing, and that was WP4EDD/QRP, peaking sometimes S8! WOW!!! Could't believe my ears! How was that possible? "What a crazy band!" I said to me! Results: 868 QSO's, 178mults(160+18), score - 479,532 Thank you all the weak sigs guys for the patience, and also to all those who QSY for me. Thanks also to KP2/K2ZZ for the schedule, but at 17z couldn't hear him anymore. I enjoyed this contest as usual. "Merry Christmas!" and "A Happy New Year!" to all of you, and see ya in the ARRL CW 2004! (hope in better condx!)

73! Tibi -- YO9GZU

WA7LT -- Dec 21, 2003 22:07 ET

Super first multi-op from new QTH of WA7LT. Combination of old hand WA7LT and new contest op K7TQ looks to be a good one. WA7LT's YL, Donna, sure helped keep food organized. Computer lost our first QSO. Well really, K7TQ, inadvertently deleted it. 165 in one hour SSB. CW rate meter hit 146 for K7TQ and 197 for WA7LT. SSB rate meter hit 305 for WA7LT--personal best ever. -- K7TQ

N9AG -- Dec 21, 2003 21:44 ET

First, thanks to Bob, N8NR, and Debbie, KA8CFU, for letting me invade their home for another contest. Bob has been spending a lot of time on the road and hasn't been able to have multi-op events as he did so well for a long time. The station is located on the frontier, a half mile east of Indiana. It is "deep" W8-land.

Last year, Bob completed his 10 meter array. It is a three-stack of 5-element HyGain yagis at 120'/90'/60'. The bottom two are fixed on Europe. That was great for the CQWW CW last month, but the European antennas didn't get much use this time. The top antenna was a killer for the scatter that persisted all weekend and its second lobe worked well for the Es.

I worked 62 Europeans, which I thought was pretty pathetic at the time. With the comments from everyone else it seems like the riches of Midas. One DL, one G, one GM, one SP, a few PAs, OH's and F's was pretty much it, except for amazing signals from YL0A and the three TF's who called.

It snowed pretty hard on Sunday so I wanted to leave for home while it was still light, so I planned to quit at 2200Z. I was getting close to 200 multipliers, so I spent a bit of time scouring the phone band and wound up moving a KP4 and KP2 to get me to 200. I worked T30M and heard him announce he was going to 28050, so I glommed him there when he showed up. DXing is fun too!

Thanks to all for the QSOs! -- N9AG

SV1XV -- Dec 21, 2003 05:07 ET

I entered in QRP mode with an FT-817 and two antennas (wire dipole and 3-band vertical). In general conditions were poor. There was a good opening to SE Europe (400 - 1000 km skip) on Saturday evening and a brief opening to 5B4 early Sunday morning. Later on Sunday I experienced a long Es opening to G, GW, F, EI, EA, CT with very good reports (S9+) from CT. At 1030z the Es opening started closing and was dead by 1110z.

I also worked some UA9 big guns on Sunday morning - but no trace of UA0, JA. I failed miserably with 5U7JB pile-up on Sunday morning, but I had a difficult SSB QSO with FY5KE at his sunrise. Later I managed to work P40K after considerable effort. This was my only real DX for the contest.

S. American F2 propagation (LU, CX, PY) started at about 1430z. Signals with pronounced QSB. At about 1500 propagation moved up to US Atlantic coast (FL, CT, PA).

See you next year!

73 Costas SV1XV

-- SV1XV

N3AWS -- Dec 20, 2003 16:04 ET

Operated QRP SSB as usual. Operating time was limited, but I accomplished my main objective of comparing my Icom 706 MKIIG at 5 watts to my new Yaesu FT-817. Both are good rigs with similar band coverage. I have the 706 set to my operating preferences, but am still experimenting with the 817 settings. Overall, I still prefer the Icom because of the larger screen, larger controls, and SWR graphing utility. But both rigs performed admirably.

At the start of the contest, I did not have an antenna that worked well on 10 meters. I cobbled together an indoor dipole and went at it.

Family obligations limited my time and, although I had planned to operate from our RV, I ended up doing the contest from home. No computer logging was used. Ended up with only 30 QSOs and 16 mults for a score of 960.

I'm not sure where I'll be next year as the Air Force will be moving me next summer. I'd like to stay in Florida, but that seems unlikely. Still, this remains one of my favorite contests, so I'll try to get on from wherever I end up.

73, Jim N3AWS Jacksonville, FL -- N3AWS

K0BJ -- Dec 19, 2003 12:02 ET

KS Low Power Mixed mode CW: 106 Qs 35 sec 13DX SSB: 71 Qs 20 sec 20 DX Total Score = 50,160

A limited affair for me as we visited son KB0MBS at his graduation from Kansas State U. Got back from that late Saturday night and I was surprised to work a big handful of stations on sporadic E. Never got EU or JA in the log but 10 seems to offer interesting surprises even in the waning stages of the cycle. -- *K0BJ*

KQ6EE -- Dec 18, 2003 10:56 ET



Here is my oldy in my HAM ROOM, and make my contest as an enjoyable day.

KQ6EE IS ON THE AIR ON SUNDAY. I enjoyed every contest. On Friday just after the contest started, I just made only one contact using my Yaesu FT-100 and vertical antenna. Saturday, I did not do anything because of spending time with my family. On Sunday, I woke up in the morning, and turned on my oldy -- SWAN 350. I love to use my old radio. I feel good when the oldy still working like a tiger. I made more than 100 contact which was very good to me for less than 8 hours. There is no comparison to those big gun. My Swan 350 works better than a tiger. I could make most of the contact, even some very weak one. Fun, Fun, Fun for every contest. 73 MERRY

CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL -- *KQ6EE*

VO2AAA -- Dec 17, 2003 23:04 ET



Dave VO1AU operated as VO2AAA from the VO2WL club station

First, let me thank Naz VO2NS and the Hams of Western Labrador for allowing me to borrow the VO2WL club station. I am especially grateful to Naz for letting me borrow his amp, and loaning me his keyer paddle when mine was damaged in transit. Naz looked in on me frequently, and really made me feel very welcome at VO2WL.

The last time I submitted a log in this contest was over twenty years ago. By chance and good planning, I had to travel to western Labrador around the time of this contest, so I packed my own rig and other essentials and made arrangements to take over VO2WL.

Like everyone else, I was disappointed in



The VO2WL shack and antennas



You know you're in Labrador when you see a highway sign like this ...

conditions. I reckon things were just that much worse at this northerly, inland location than they would have been if I had been home in St John's, but if I'd been home, I would not have worked the contest at all.

I observed F-layer, sporadic-E, auroral and scatter propagation at various times, but none of it was really very good. I found it hard to get runs going, with my best hours around a measly 60 QSOs, and hard to be heard most of the times. Western Europe was available, weakly, the first day, but almost absent the second. The reverse was true for W6/W7/WØ - absent Saturday, possible with struggle Sunday. Neither Asia nor Oceania existed for me, nor, for that matter, VE4/5/6, although I did hear VE4YU S&P-ing and VE6AO unable to hear me.

I still find it odd that in this contest, Labrador is a distinct multiplier from Newfoundland, as these two places together form one single province (or previous to that, Dominion or Colony) and have done since the year 1800. For you Yanks, having VO1 and VO2 as separate "provinces" is a bit like having the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan count as separate states. It is nonetheless a harmless oddity which

served to make a trip to VO2 worthwhile.

I knew that no VO2 had entered this contest in many years and thought there had been little or no casual activity from Labrador. That, combined with the allure of Zone 2, I thought, would help make this one a more exciting event.

I was surprised though, at some of the reactions I got on air. Most people recognised that they were on to a rare mult when they worked me. Others seemed oblivious until their logging software told them I was a new mult. Quite a number found the abbreviation I used (LB - check the rules) wasn't recognised by their logging software and would bleat complaints, asking me to somehow fix their software, or (a few) suggesting not even I knew where I was.

Even with lousy conditions, I had a good time in this contest.

73,

Dave -- VO1AU/VO2AAA

CX2AQ -- Dec 17, 2003 17:48 ET



Thanks to all for copy my weak signals !!

Very bad condx this year, but I enjoy working with my 5 watts battery powered QRP.

Rig: Ten-Tec Argonaut 515 + 3 el. Yagi (Cushman A3S)

73's , Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

RON -- CX2AQ



KI5YG -- Dec 17, 2003 19:30 ET

I had a lot of fun, considering... my antenna was a 40M dipole, up 10 meters, I used a KWM2 (vintage '61) and an antenna tuner (MFJ 989B). 188 contacts. Got Japan, Italy, French Guiana, VK, ZL, too many to mention. Surprising, considering the operating conditions and problems, namely: power-line hash during the afternoons, radio problems (dirty relay contacts?), and no computer (paper log!). Ever try dupe checking a 10-page paper log between each contact? After every transmission, I would have to switch my mode switch to CW and back, to get the receiver to come up. Best was the great sporadic-E openings... those of you that went to bed early missed out! I understand that 6m was open FB during that time, too. Thanks to the many patient operators that helped make this a contest to remember. -- KI5YG

N8AP -- Dec 17, 2003 15:05 ET

Was Michigan in a DX hole? No Europe, Asia, or JA's. Just a single EA8 and ZL with the rest all South America and the Caribbean. My points were way down without the usual DX multipliers. Maybe the worse showing ever. Was Michigan the only DX deprived area? Maybe not as I didn't hear state side working DX either. Anyway thanks all for the great state side QSO's. -- *N8AP*

AC4FD -- Dec 17, 2003 12:37 ET

This is my second 10 Meter Contest and numbers were not as good as last year. My total time operating is probably a little over 6 hours but operation was sporadic.

Probably my biggest surprise was when I checked out the band on 10 meters before going to bed Saturday night. It was approximately 0500Z (Midnight local on east coast) and I heard several stations. I was able to make 6 contacts in about 15 minutes before going to bed.

Total contacts this year only 70 (down from 100 last year) despite my acquiring a 100W TS-130SE (last year a Radio Shack HTX 100) and a (hopefully) improved Inverted V on top of my roof. Unfortunately due to the close proximity to my sons Television, I was a good source of TVI. DX contacts were also down as most of my multipliers came from working different states (only 23 multipliers).

Can't wait until Next Year!

73

Randy -- *AC4FD*

KB4QLZ -- Dec 17, 2003 06:31 ET

Conditions were not as good as last year. Friday night only worked about 20 stateside stations, and a couple in the Caribbean. Saturday KB4FWN and KG4RTA came over to work some. Picked up a few in Europe, and more states. Saturday night we had an "ice storm". Sunday morning the beam was totally frozen, SWR was sky high. Switched to an Inverted V. At 2PM the beam finally thawed. Wound up with 47 States and 50 Countries. -- *KB4QLZ*

KB4KBS -- Dec 17, 2003 00:47 ET

On Saturday I hooked up the TS-120S to a mag-mounted Hustler with a 10M resonator and a tuner, then sat in my van with an extension cord running to an exterior AC outlet at the Fire Station. It was cold and windy in the AM, cold and wet in the PM. Fortunately we only had one

call and a lunch run to interrupt my operating time. Saturday's total was 73 contacts and 35 multipliers in 6 hours. Most painful miss: KH7U - HI (tried for 20+ minutes) Best Consolation Prize: NA5S - NM (only 15 minutes for him). Most Thrilling Multiplier: tie: ID, BC, and SK. First station worked: NQ4I.

On Sunday Afternoon, I realized that the contest was for 48 hours, not 24, so I got out there again after church and made 45 more contacts and added 9 more multipliers in 3 more hours. I operated from 2 different locations, home and the parking lot of church. I plugged in to 120VAC, so I guess I really don't qualify as a mobile station. I got BC, OR and ND on Sunday. I heard MB, but missed him.

All in all it was a good event for me considering my provisional station and busy schedule. It also made me realize how much I enjoy the challenge of contesting. I just wish I had a better setup.

Thanks to the guys at SECC for tolerating my hanging around the message board like a wide-eyed newbie. I have learned a lot from reading about your exploits and your tales of woe.

Scott KB4KBS -- *KB4KBS*

W4GAC -- Dec 16, 2003 12:03 ET

W4GAC St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club.

The Ten Meter Contest is one of the events we run from the club station every year.

This year, we started off on Friday night. The band appeared closed, and we worked some local stations. Before giving up, we moved down to the CW end and heard some stuff just under the noise. We resurrected an old bencher audio filter, and after hooking it up, managed to work some barely audible South American stations. The band closed completely after that.

On Saturday, we opened up about 8:00 am local time and had a computer mini disaster. Our fine, venerable, dearly loved serial mouse decided to go from flakey to useless. It's pretty difficult trying to computer log without a mouse. I finally took the thing apart, and was able to move the wheels by hand, one direction at a time. This got us into the logging program, and back on the air. There was an opening to Europe on phone, which we exploited while it lasted. It was only there for about an hour. This single opening was the only time we were able to get into Europe all weekend, pretty much. The conditions on Saturday were pretty good. The signals were readable, a little weak, but no fading.

After Europe faded away, we switched back to CW. The conditions on code we ok, and we started knocking down the various states and provinces. The band stayed open until about 8:00

PM local time.

Sunday, we had a great deal of rain. That did not keep us off the air, but we got started around 9:00 AM local. Well the signal strengths were up Sunday across the board on both Phone and CW. The pattern we had on Saturday repeated, we worked more DX multipliers on phone than we did CW, and more states and provinces on CW than we did on phone.

By the end of the contest, which came about 6:00 pm our time, as the band just shut down abruptly, we had good balance on our results. A few more CW contacts than phone and a few more multipliers on phone than CW. It's especially helpful to work mixed modes when the conditions are not optimal.

Participating operators were: WA4EEZ, KC4SXO, N4GD, N4RI, and myself, KU4BT. We also had quite a few visitors, hams and non hams. Special mention to NP3R for killing the mouse. (We got a new one fromRadio Shack.) -- *KU4BT*

W3DQ -- Dec 17, 2003 01:27 ET



My wife and daughter went out of town, leaving me with our 9 year-old son, who wanted to be entertained the entire weekend.

Started out great guns on Friday night, only to have the roof-mounted yagi get snarled a tree. Stuck it out with the dipole and didn't get back in the chair until mid-morning Saturday. After climbing the roof mid-day and freeing the yagi (trimming the tree... a scary experience), I didn't

get back until late Saturday night.

Sunday morning, with 5" of rapidly melting snow on the ground, things got better. I heard some DX -- Europeans (F, G, DL, CT), South/Central Americans, the Caribbean. I did hear one KH6, but he didn't hear me. And little above Connecticut (no NH, VT, most of VE).

In the end, this contest was, and always is lots of fun. Being a rare multiplier (District of Columbia) doesn't hurt, even for little-pistols (Omni-6+, OCF Dipole @50 ft, F12 C-3SS 10 ft above the roof) like me!

Eric -- *W3DQ*

KD5YIL -- Dec 16, 2003 23:32 ET

What a great learning session!!! This weekend really taught me the value of "patience, Grasshopper." Friday was a heartbreaker as I was expecting the band to open up but only ran 14 contacts, mostly in CA. Saturday I didn't play at all until late but I could hear stations all up and down the East Coast. Sunday was the day I finally was able to get on and try to build up a decent (to me) contact list. Dealing from an antenna restriction, I was using a 120' loop made out of 24 AWG wire laying on my roof but still was able to work PJ2, XE, TI5 and numerous others. Some surprised me and I'm sure if the other op had known what I was using, it would have surprised him/her as well. The weekend, for me was a total thrill!! See all y'all next year!!!! -73- KD5YIL -- *KD5YIL*

K8IA -- Dec 16, 2003 20:36 ET



**Bob K8IA near the Superstition Mtns
Arizona USA**

Eeks, a dyed in the wool CW opr and I end up with more q's on SSB than on CW. Am sure I wont hear the last of that. ;-). With only one EU and TEN JA's one would think this would not be thought of as successful, but nope. The different propogation encountered (I had qso's backscatter, sidescatter, sporadic-E, maybe other modes that I know little about as well) made this an extrememely interesting weekend! Plus a very low receive noise level, a wonderful little pattern switchable antenna (3 el SteppIR) and a seemingly endless supply of east coast USA stations kept me smiling and provided the playground to help me improve my skills. This was fun!

73, Bob K8IA Arizona USA -- *K8IA*

G3TXF -- Dec 16, 2003 11:27 ET

Worked 500 Q's on first day and 423 Q's on second.

On both Saturday and Sunday the majority of US stations were worked with the antenna pointing to South America. Signals were nearly always better on this skew path than they were direct.

Worked only one (extremely thin) W6 in CA (K6AM) and no W7's worked at all. Nothing heard from Japan. The furthest DX to the east was VI8NT (VK8) and the furthest to the south-west was CE3BFZ.



Nigel G3TXF puts beam onto an 80ft crank-up!

Although the band initially went flat within an hour of our sunset [1610z] on the Saturday, there was an odd further opening to the US and the Caribbean from about 1915z to 2030z on the Saturday. Signals were weak, but they were 'direct'. Most of the QSOs with the Caribbean were made during this odd (three to four hours AFTER our sunset) second opening. The same opening didn't happen on the Sunday.

Bye bye 10 metres see you again during the next sunspot cycle!

The antenna [4el 10m yagi at 75ft] was installed on a crank-up tower specifically for the contest. Operated from North Devon contest/holiday location. Station FT-1k-MP and Quadra amp. -- *G3TXF*

K3DSP -- Dec 15, 2003 19:03 ET

Once again, HAD A BLAST..... -- *K3DSP*

W8JWN -- Dec 15, 2003 17:32 ET



Very unusual conditions to say the least! Only four stations worked on Friday night. I started Saturday morning earlier than last year to be ready for the European opening...it never came! Actually, I only worked one station, a CT, the whole contest. I never heard anyone from Europe, or Asia during the contest. It was disappointing to see my final score, compared to last year, in the little box in the Log Entry window! I made only 348 contacts this year

compared to 796 in 2002! Operating from the northern latitudes, 45 degrees here in the U.P., is tough!!!

Has there been any thought to having a 15 meter contest to replace this contest during the down cycle?

Still, I look forward to this weekend every year. I especially like the down time. It makes the XYL happy! -- *W8JWN*

KG6ENA -- Dec 15, 2003 16:26 ET



Happy Holidays from KG6ENA

Another good contest, but not so good propagation. Sunday, late, the path to Japan was open, but I only made a few contacts to Japan (compared to last year's several hundred). Overall, my contacts were down 50% from last year, but the fun level stayed high. I hope to see qsl's on the LOTW this year. -- *KG6ENA*

NB4K -- Dec 16, 2003 06:35 ET



Here I'm explaining the finer points of contesting to my XYL. <P> NB4K

Thanks to all those worked us over the weekend. After the slow start Friday evening Saturday and Sunday turned out to be good for 10 meters. We broke in a new ham and lookout next year as he has really took on the contest mode. Had no problem working who we wanted off the 10, 15 and 20 meter 6 element beam. But the most fun was being able to use my 40 meter rotatable dipole. It proved to be the antenna for ground scatter and band openings. Of course the beam was used in the DX pileups.

Thanks to Ron Baker, KG4C and Michael Cehand, KG4YXC for their efforts over the weekend as it was truly a group effort.

Also a big thanks to N3FJP and the wonderful program he has developed for the contesting.
-- *NB4K*

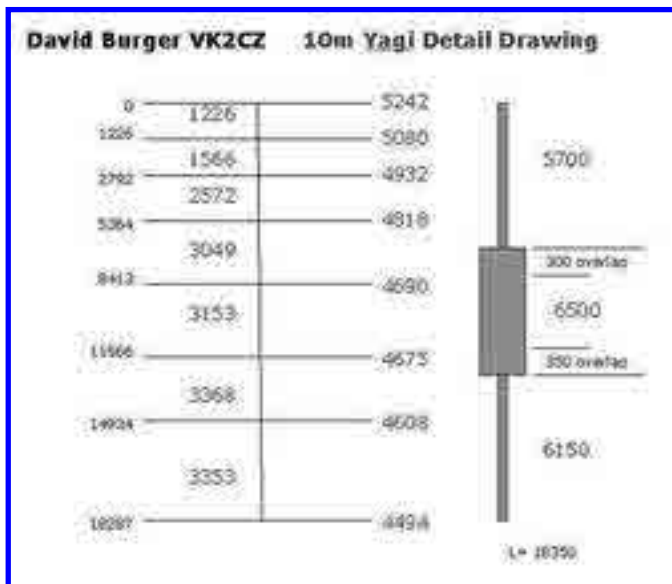
W1JCJ -- Dec 15, 2003 21:07 ET

Thanks to all for working me this weekend.... had a lot of fun in my second ever contest effort, CW low power.

Last month after dabbling in the CW SS I thought I would put up a dedicated 10M wire array for this contest. Intrigued by the design and simplicity of the Sturba curtain array, my goal was to put up a pair at 90 deg angles. But work and weather got in the way of constuction and in the end, at the last minute, I nailed together a pair of phased EDZ's built from plans in the ARRL Wire antenna classics book. It was very cool to test out where I could work in comparison with a basic oversized Zepp.

OK, my contesting effort wasnt much of an effort but I managed to hit 40 states, 4 canadian provinces and about 30 countries. Conditions sucked wind on Friday night. Saturday was good...lots of EA's, F's, DLs and Gs. Tons and tons of NM, TX, AZ and CA on Sunday. And all weekend long zillions of LU's and PYs. That band opens closes and changes so very much over the course of a few minutes to say nothing of hours. If only I had a rotatable antenna..... 73.
Chris -- *WIJCJ*

VK2CZ -- Dec 15, 2003 20:36 ET



Hi all,

With the culmination of a 9 month project to get an 8 ele yagi in the air, it was finished 1 hour into the contest. I initially thought it wasn't working, as signals were way down from what I'd seen in 2001/2. Some basic A/B tests with a 3 element yagi showed how well it really was working. North America was open from 0000z to around 0600z, and the following day NA siganls were raging at 1900z - much earlier than I would have expected. Good runs into Japan, but they were giving out very low numbers in return, but snared a few QRP guy's. Some heavy QSB openings into EU from 0600z to 1100z rounded out some of the needed countries. Lots from Italy, France, Slovenia, Spain, Portugal and

This is the build sketch, but no actual photo of the big ant. (Dimensions are in millimetres).

Germany, but nothing from higher latitudes or G land. No stations heard or worked south of Honduras, Aruba and Cuba.

Nothing heard from Africa, beaming and calling into dead air when propagation there should have worked. Beamed into AK (without success) for much of the time as well, with only minor signal degradation for both NA and JA from here.

SEAsia was wide open (their cordless phones were alive and well), but just one HS station live, and he sounded demoralised by dead air as well.

Snared 48 states, missing AK,ME and DC, even worked 7 stations from NM.. for some reason my 10m 2nd hop footprint must have sat on top of NM, as I've never worked so many from there in one weekend. Oddly, it was day 2 when I worked my first WA station, even though they were strong here. It sounded like it was a domestic US contest only :-{ When the beams eventually came around to Oceania, QSO's were easy peasey.

Had a mid-contest visit during a slow EU period from Irwin KD3TB who re-routed his return flight to the USA !! That makes a total of 2 Frankford Radio clubs visitors this year (the other John K3MD).

CUall in 2004 from Sydney. -- VK2CZ

K6RJ -- Dec 15, 2003 19:00 ET

This was my first time working the 10m contest and was only able to work about 8 hours between Saturday and Sunday but had a blast anyway. I was able to complete a couple hundred Q's in the Single-Op Low Mixed category and kept tabs on 3 active kids to boot! I logged 39 states mostly east of the Mississippi and 15 countries spread over the Caribbean, Central and South America. Only heard a couple of Europeans and nothing from Asia or Africa, as expected.

All in all, it was a fun way to spend a few hours and get in some operating time. I even broke out the old straight key and logged a few on CW. I think I'll make more of an effort on CW next time. I look forward to next year when, hopefully, I'll have a small beam up. -- K6RJ

WA3ELQ -- Dec 15, 2003 17:21 ET

Despite having a limited amount of time to operate this year, I had a great time. Conditions were a little more challenging this year, but band openings into Europe, South America, and the west coast made things exciting. Even with only 80 watts and the antenna only 15 feet off the ground I found I was able to compete with the big guns for QSO's. Propagation was strange this time. Made many contacts off the back and side of the beam. 73, Larry -- WA3ELQ

KA2IVS -- Dec 15, 2003 11:17 ET

I haven't operated HF since moving into my "no antenna" townhouse in 2000. Saturday morning, I couldn't resist blowing the dust off of the TS830. So, I juried together a 10 meter doublet with a few feet of ladder line I found in a closet and strung it up about 10 feet off the ground. WHAT A BLAST! Just hunting and pecking, I worked WA, OR, BC, AZ, TX, and a dozen other states, PLUS CM, OA, PY, HP, TI, XE, LU, P4, FY and others! The XYL thought I was nuts, running around the house and yelling things like, "I just got Brazil!" This is the greatest contest for the "antenna challenged." I'll have to see what the "big guns" have to say

about conditions, but all I know is this "little pistol" had a BALL! -- *KA2IVS*

K4VU -- Dec 15, 2003 11:49 ET

Wow, what a wild ride. All I can say about propagation this year is that it had more moods than my last girlfriend -- and just as unpredictable. A Saturday afternoon call from KY5R (Hi/SSB/AL) revealed that going to bed after midnight Friday was a bad call, and that ZL/VK opened up nicely to the southeast soon after I had already pronounced the 10m DOA. Heh, who would've thought..?!

Saturday was a bit better, but I was still down in the noise for most folks who struggled to copy the faint signal from Alabama. The 100 watts and my Piece-O-Wire(tm) at 25 feet -- the same setup I used the previous weekend for surprising 370 Qs on 160 the weekend before -- was just barely making it out alive. And it seemed like I must've worked every single ham in Florida that day (is there an award for that? :)). I can still hear faint echoes of '599 FL' when it gets quiet around the house. Later in the day, it opened up to the northeast and I loaded up on needed mults. Finally, shutdown around 1:00 a.m.

Sunday morning, conditions were very nice. Very few EU, with the exception of the occasional strong, fluttering UAs and OHs going over the Pole. Could work everyone I could hear, mostly on the first call -- even managed to run a few times (one time getting practically assaulted by multiplier needy stations in the midwest). I was having a ball, until... sporadic S-7 line noise hit. Bummer.

All in all, it was a load of fun. 500+ Qs, around 30 countries and only needed DE, AK and MS for 10m WAS for the weekend. Until recently, I've been on the west coast and had no station. Now -- after moving back to the southeast -- and after working three contests for three weekends in a row, I'm ready to start growing antennas again. Its been a long time, but I'm looking forward to the challenge of building a competitive setup. I showed my fiance pictures of the K1TTT superstation and said, 'now **thats** what I'm going after -- isn't that beautiful?!' Her response was, 'well I guess we have to get a place well away from normal people so you don't hurt anyone.'" Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, fer sure.

73 Robin/K4VU CW/Low Power/Alabanana Republic -- *K4VU*

AA1VT -- Dec 15, 2003 15:02 ET

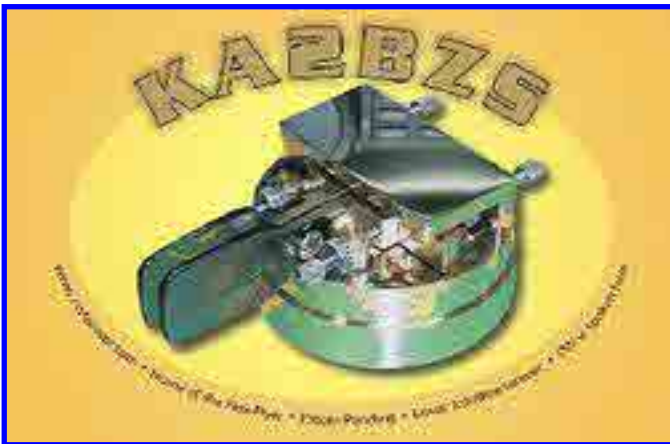
Slow going on Friday evening, as we only worked one station. Thank goodness there was someone else on in the same town! Hunt and peck on Saturday/Sunday was the order of the day, as we were running low power into wire antennae. We could definitely hold the frequency, but it would be quite fair to say we were NOT generating a pile-up. Whereas our top CW op has given us a tremendous advantage over much larger stations in the past, the mults were not falling into

our lap like in past years. We may have to re-think our strategy for years where the condx aren't so great. ARRL 10-m Contest is a great time, and a contest that works out surprisingly well with balancing time with the family and eating sushi. Two ops spent the night on Sunday, as we received 18" of snow in central Vermont that evening. AA1VT -- AA1VT

AB9FH -- Dec 15, 2003 13:52 ET

This was the first time I got on the air just because of a contest. It was a very limited effort, just 5 contacts in 2 hours, but I enjoyed myself just the same. I put up a dipole in the attic, cut to length by formula but not adjusted for resonance. My radio is limited to 25W. Still, the contacts were in CA, TX, NC, FL, and WI. I am in SE Wisconsin. There were perhaps 3 or 4 other stations which I could hear but could not contact. I did notice my skill in finding the precise frequency was improving, those short contest transmissions require that. The CA contact was my first and after that I did not hear any west coast stations. If I could have started a couple of hours earlier that would have helped greatly. -- AB9FH

KA2BZS -- Dec 15, 2003 12:08 ET



A real fun Contest as usual with not-so-good condx. Could have used a few more EU qsos ;-)
Hope all had fun. 73/DX Cwforever! Ron
-- KA2BZS

KI0EO -- Dec 15, 2003 11:11 ET

My first contest since 1995. Great to here all the DX. Only able to work a few states in the lower portion of the U.S. Band not the best in NW IA. Lots of fun !! Don -- KI0EO

N5KA -- Dec 15, 2003 09:52 ET

The unusual propagation made this so much more fun. Late saturday I could work stations only if beaming South West - regardless of where they were. I had a great time. -- N5KA

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