

# Contest Soapbox

## 2004 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

32 Soapbox entries available

### DD1IM -- Mar 17, 2004 11:12 ET

...maybe the only one ham with german license class c (means cept class 2), who participated at this cw-contest. Sorry, but I have had not much time, so only my intention to make 50 qsos, and to make the "dd" prefix getting "cw-public", hi - I did it. I wkd w/icom ic-756pro2 (max. 100w rf out) and a 3element mini beam (zx-yagi mini 2000 - 30ft above gnd), kent twin paddle and my ears, logging with n1mm-logger. 15mtrs had been great (42 qsos), but some mults on 20 - so I make "all bands" category. My claimed score is really not a "big shot", but participating just only a little bit and bringing traffic on the bands (and some points 4 the other testers) is a good thing. Now I will thank you for all services and your work - and for the contest itself. Though I was new on shortwave&cw (without official telegraphy examination - tnx wrc03), it has been a great pleasure for me working in this famous contest.

Agn mni tnx, vy 73, gl, cuagn es cwfe de Sascha DD1IM (member of DARC, DOK K27)  
-- DD1IM

### KP2CW -- Mar 16, 2004 00:32 ET



**Post-contest R&R at the Divi... "Kickin' back with Jack (Daniels)". I could have stayed for a month!!!**

My 1st Major Single-Op DX Contest in 30 years, and a 60th birthday present to myself after being away from HF & DX until November, 2003. It was fun, but I was pretty QLF from lack of sleep before contest started. I didn't make my 5 MEG point goal, but learned what NOT to do next time.

Tnx to my pal of 40 years Jim, ZD8Z(N6TJ) for getting me active again and for all his help! Hopefully, I'll still make Top Ten with my 4.5+ Million (claimed) score, and congrats to Jim for beating me this time in our personal contest. Tnx also to the terrific gang at the NCCC for their help in getting me back into contesting (especially N6RO, W0YK, K6XX & N7MH/W6YX).



**W1JR nicknamed me "The Locust" 40 years ago 'cuz I used to clean out his refrigerator when visiting :-)** Nothing's changed.

After being QRT from DX & Contesting so long, it was a real thrill to work my original mentor from the early 1960's...Joe, W1JR, on several bands, as well as his son Jim, AD1C who I first met when he was in diapers :-)

I gained 10 pounds on my brief trip, 'cuz KV4FZ's wife Monika is a fabulous cook!!! Great "Rental-QTH" experience and I was treated like royalty. -- K6VVA



**It's almost contest time, and the munchies are ready at the KP2CW operating position, and time to Beta Test the "Locust Contest Mission Control Center" !!!**

**DJ3TF -- Mar 12, 2004 14:08 ET**

**CATEGORY: SINGLE-OP 160M HIGH CW DJ3TF**

Took part only on topband during both sunrises. Used QTH and equipment of DL0AO. CONDX were pretty good on 160 here in central-Europe. But Mr. Murphy made a visit at Sunday morning and did not tell me to switch my RX from the TX-ant to the USA-beverage. So sorry to everybody, who did not reach my log because of some noise here....

See more on.. [www.qrz.com/dj3tf](http://www.qrz.com/dj3tf) ..and.. [www.qrz.com/dl0ao](http://www.qrz.com/dl0ao) ..TNX & 73, Wolfgang -- DJ3TF



**K3WQ -- Mar 9, 2004 20:18 ET**



**Yagi the lambic Cat checks out the brass at the K3WQ operating position.**

I had no intention of entering this contest; I just stumbled into it while scanning the 40-meter band and decided to give it a try. As it happened, it was lots of fun and really helped me improve my ability to copy CW. And I found that you don't have to be a "big gun" to get in on the action. I was only running 20W--just as I always do--and had no problem working anyone. Of course, I'm sure it helped that most of the DX stations were using beam antennas. I even submitted a checklog. (I have absolutely no hope of ever doing well as a single operator; nevertheless, it's fun to submit a checklog just to help out the serious participants.)

I now look forward to the next CW contest. See you folks on the air.

73, Dave -- *K3WQ*

**OE9/G3TXF -- Mar 5, 2004 15:13 ET**



**Nigel G3TXF operating from the OE9XRV Bregenz club station**

Operated as OE9/G3TXF from Bregenz for the 2004 ARRL DX CW Contest.

Operating facilities were kindly provided by Carl OE9MON, Tommi OE9PTI and the other members of the Bregenz club station OE9XRV. The club station is located in the Kloster Mehrerau, a monastery on the edge of the Lake of Constance.

1,200 QSOs were made during the ARRL DX CW Contest using wire antennas at 25ft. The main antenna was a 255ft Windom slung between two trees. Being on the edge of the lake helped, providing a nice clear take-off to the

USA. It was tough trying to generate pile-ups on HF with only wire antennas, but the ARRL CW Contest was great fun. "OE9" is quite rare in most contests!

73 - Nigel G3TXF -- *G3TXF*

**FG5BG -- Mar 4, 2004 06:01 ET**



After my first contact with the station at h-24, the 7 years old HH2AW (9A3A) SOSB80 world record definitely became my objective... Too many problems were to be solved to reasonably think about a SOAB participation. Thanks to Georges's efforts, electricity was reestablished in the shack at h-5, and the Alpha76 PA finally operational at h-30mn... George's station is located on the East coast of the volcanic Basse-Terre, the best take-off is to Europe, Africa and middle-east, but is finally not too bad to states. The 100' tower supports a half-wave sloper that I turned to NW and tuned for the CW part of the band. Due to low mains (abt 200V), it was not reasonably possible to get more than 500W from the 2 brand new 8874 brought in my luggages.



After a rather slow first hour, the rate jumped over 110 for the next 3 hours, but unfortunately the second part of the night was not that successful, and I ended-up the first night with 802 Q's for about 10 hours of traffic. No need to say that the second night turned out quite boring, with only 420 QSO's and 3 new multipliers for 13 hours of traffic and I went to bed very disappointed missing 27 QSO's... HH2AW record was finally beaten at 2330z and about 20 more qso's added in the last half hour. Final claimed score 225,144 (1272/59) only 3Kpts ahead from the previous record, but 32K behind C6AKQ (N4BP). Congratulations to Bob and the FCG team for their new SOSB 80 and 160 world records... A very good and enjoyable experience anyway, will keep in mind George and family's warm welcome, and the very good time we had in Guadeloupe in general and in Capesterre in particular... Patrick -- *F6IRF*



**C6ASB -- Mar 2, 2004 14:15 ET**



**C6ASB Contest Station**

For those of you that worked C6ASB, here's why the CW was sometimes a little bit rough and the response to calls often slower than normal. The station ergonomics were not the best, but the station environment could hardly be beat! Travel delayed my operation until Sunday afternoon, but I still decided to get on for a few hours anyway. Coming from Iowa in February, it was also a high priority to get some sun and warm air! So, I set up for a couple of hours on the beach. The station consisted of a Yaesu FT-817 running on the internal battery, a K1EL K10SMT memory keyer built into an Altoids tin, a set of Palm Paddles (that often would hang up due to sand in the contacts), and logging using Golog on a Palm PDA. Since

the beach chair was aluminum, the magnetic base on the paddles was of little use. The antenna was a modification of the W3FF Buddipole design, using a single center-loaded vertical element with 8 ground radials, installed right at the edge of the surf. Initially I started at the 5W power level, then dropped to 2.5W as the battery started going down, then finally to 0.5W for about the last 40 or so QSOs. If the pileup noticed any difference, I couldn't tell it! My battery finally completely died with quite a few stations still calling; sorry I was not able to work you all. It was a real challenge to juggle between the Palm for initially copying the calls, the paddles to initiate the exchange, the keyer to finish the qso, and then the Palm again to log the qso. Next time there will have to be a CW interface to the Palm... The view is looking NW toward the US. For more information, visit my website at: <http://pages.cfu.net/~sjs/c6asb.htm> -- *AKOM*

### **KE7NO -- Feb 29, 2004 23:10 ET**

Again, another fun contest. I appreciate everyone that dug my call out from the QRM. My beam needs a helping hand and my antenna farm could use some help since the fall antenna work never happened (back surgery). Otherwise, the 160M full wave horizontal loop worked very well. My score was up from last year, and I hope for better luck for AIDX SSB.

My only request is for the guys that send at the 50 w.p.m. level. Please slow down! Whatever gains you feel you are getting is washed away because a fair number of ops won't answer you. I am impressed that you can go that fast, I can't. Bring it back down to the 20 - 25 w.p.m. level and many of your CQ's will bring someone in (maybe even a multiplier). If that's not enough, just know that I have discovered I copied several calls wrong. It may effect my log only, but think about losing points and multipliers before you crank up the keyer.

73's and CU next year -- *KE7NO*

### **J6DX -- Feb 29, 2004 11:28 ET**



This was the first time that SouthWest Ohio DX Association Team J6DX has taken part in the ARRL DX Competition. We want to dedicate the operation in memory of two of our charter members whom we lost in 2003: Frank, W8OK/J68OK and Steve, N8SM/J68AG. Frank was our founder and peacemaker and Steve was the hot-shot operator who led us to two CQWW CW Championships in the 90's.

We couldn't have our choice of housing this year and our villa did not afford us a good view of North America. The first photo shows the

## View toward the US



**Team J6DX 2004**

view our tribander had toward the US.

We had one amp to start the contest, running about 300 watts on 40 meters. That amp eventually went by the wayside, leaving all four stations barefoot. We used two IC706's, one FT920 and one JST245.

The second photo shows most of our crew. From left to right are: Pete, N0FW; Jack, K9JE/J68AR; Don, N6JRL/J68DD; Scott, N9AG/J68AS; Kirk, W8QID/J68ID; and Gary, KI6T/J68GS. Occupied elsewhere when the group photos were shot was Vytas, WA1T.



**(L) Don on 20M; (R) Jack on 15M**

The third photo shows Don, N6JRL/J68DD operating the JST245 on 20 meters and Jack, K9JE/J68AR, using one of the IC706's on 15 Meters

Thanks to everyone for all the QSOs. QSLs are already being processed via N9AG. -- N9AG

## **NONE -- Feb 28, 2004 09:29 ET**

How about next year leaving a few KHz for the PSK ops to use 14.070 to 14.073, who are not participating in the CW contest, only three KHz. Thanks -- *K0HZI*

## **DL7NS -- Feb 27, 2004 05:41 ET**

Nice Contest again with good condx at the right time. Little pile-up on 10-and 15m with the US guys. Thanks! Running with IC-735, SB-220 (500W) Ant: 2 el quad (10/15/20m), full-size gp 40m and Dipol fr 80/160m. Noise level all the time here in Berlin s5/s6! Missing states of ID, MT, WY, ND and SD. Looking for the next ARRL-Contest. Vy 73! Klaus -- *DL7NS*



FM5BH -- Feb 26, 2004 17:38 ET



FM5BH's antennas at sunset

Totals 5416 16248 329 = 5,345,592

Great contest. I worked 43 hours. I never heard my alarm clock I planed to sleep only 2 hours. But I finished in good shape. My setup : FT1000MP AND TS930S( checking propagation in the left ear) . Alpha power 91b C31XR 72 FEET 402CD ON TOP OF THE C31XR IN V DIPOLE ON 80M INV L on 160m A4 remote ant on the TS930S SOFTWARE CTWIN COMPUTER CELERON 2.4 GHz Hope to be better next year Thank you all Your QSL via W3HMK

Laurent <http://www.fm5bh.com> -- *FM5BH*





**Laurent FM5BH**

**K3WWP -- Feb 26, 2004 10:08 ET**



**Me and my old homebrew station**

Other commitments on Saturday limited my time, but I still had a lot of fun and success in the contest. Rather than posting my full contest story here, I invite you to read it at my web site - <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> in my Contesting Section-Contest Stories page. I also have a contesting survey on the main page of my web site and I would appreciate it if you'd take it if you haven't already. Briefly my main contest highlight was my results on 80M. I worked 22 countries on 4 continents there with

my minimal QRP setup - 5 watts to an attic random wire in a valley QTH. Before the contest I only had 28 countries on 80M. Also I was pleased to get D4B on 5 bands 80-10M. -- *K3WWP*

**LU5FZ -- Feb 26, 2004 05:20 ET**

A good job in the contest with my FT 817 + 3 El. 3 Band + G5RV, good conditions in 28 MHz. I see you in the SSB Contest. LU5FZ, Ed, QSL via EA7FTR. -- *LU5FZ*



**EA2PA -- Feb 25, 2004 18:10 ET**

I did the contest for a few hours on Saturday only. Good conditions on 40 and 80 at night. I was running a multiband dipole, 100 watts and a TS-2000. -- *EA2PA*

**OK2AB -- Feb 25, 2004 16:39 ET**



Good contest and good US contestmen . A few stations from AZ, ID, MT, NE, NV, ND, SD, WY, VE4, VE5, VY1, VY, VO2. Many stations from PA, NY, NJ, MA ... If you like you can see my websites: <http://ok2ab.cq.sk> and my logs.  
-- *OK2AB*

**ZZ8Z -- Feb 26, 2004 08:52 ET**

This was an amazing ARRL DX contest. After 6th place last year (SOAB(A) no LP/HP split), I decided to switch to SOSB20m LP this year. My targets were 800Q's, 58 multipliers, and end up with 140k pts. Well, I want to thank all W/VE station for all 1136 Q's and 58 multipliers (almost 190k pts) on the contest. Hope see you all on the WPX CW and IARU Contest.

Best 73, Luc -- *PY8AZT*



**K5NZ -- Feb 25, 2004 19:00 ET**

<http://www.texasinfo.net/arrl> -- *K5NZ*

**K4JA -- Feb 25, 2004 18:06 ET**



Here's the K4JA M-2 crew (L-R): Mike AJ9C, Pete N4ZR, Chad WE9V, Bruce W3BP, Paul K4JA, Larry K7SV, and Jerry KE9I. They erected the 40m tower (rotating 4/4 stack) on Friday on the contest! Check out <http://www.K4JA.com> for more info. CQ CONTEST! -- *K9GY*

**PV8AZ -- Feb 25, 2004 14:34 ET**

This is the first time that I participate of this contests, more for invitation of the colleague and friend Paulo, bearer of station PV8DX. I made few contacts, but, I go to prepare me for the next year. -- *PV8AZ*

**N9TTX -- Feb 25, 2004 11:45 ET**

It was a fun contest...not without problems of course. I figured I could have posted a better score of I had been able to put up the A-3 for gain, as some stations could have been better copy on my or their end. The only other problem I ran across was because of the temporary configuration, I was getting into the computer heavily on 40 and 80 meters. Every time I keyed

on these two bands, the screen went wild, file windows kept popping up and down, blackscreening, and it tried to shut itself down a couple times...hence I could have gotten more Q's here also. 20 just had horrendous monitor noise and the screen only fuzzed a bit when keyed down. If I could copy code in my head better, I would not have to rely on CW Get for decoding, but toward the end I was recognizing phrases better.

Equipment: Yaesu FT-101ZD, MFJ 949E tuner, G5RV Antenna (temp mounted on the portable tower fed at 30 feet as a sloper), MFJ Grandmaster 482B keyer, and Bencher paddle. No 2nd or third rig this time either...just the 101ZD.

It was nice to work the familiar stations again, and very nice to work some new countries. The high point for me was working U41ITU. Sort of like working W1AW for the first time. Thanks to those that were patient with me with the fill work. I will have pics up sometime soon. The website is <http://www.qsl.net/n9ttx> Every contest seems to change shack design here.

David Aho...N9TTX -- *N9TTX*

#### **PV8DX -- Feb 24, 2004 16:12 ET**



Hi, It was with some years that it didn't participate in all the bands. This year I worked low potency with antennas: C4 XL(force 12 10 15 and 20m), 3 El 80m, 5 El 10m and Alpha Delta 1DXA Dipole for 160m. Last day lacking few hours for the end of the contest, the propagation opened in 20 meters. The interesting is the transmission of my Call sign in CW PV8DX for the program CT, in the speed of 28 word per minute, some friends don't notice V and yes 4, thinking that I am in Aruba P48DX hihihi. Congratulations the all the participants

and to next contests. -- *PV8DX*

#### **W7KPL -- Feb 23, 2004 16:47 ET**

Worked the contest with my "second op". Hi.

Glad to get a new one: ZD8Z.

See you in the phone test!

73's Jerry W7KPL Scottsdale,AZ -- *W7KPL*

**W7KPL -- Feb 23, 2004 15:57 ET**

My "second operator" Annie at the helm.

Great contest. was able to work ZD8Z. A new one for me.

73's

Jerry W7KPL Scottsdale,AZ -- *W7KPL*

**W7KPL -- Feb 23, 2004 15:55 ET**

Shared the contest with my cat Annie. Was happy to work a new one -- ZD8Z.

Great contest. Look forward to the Phone Section.

73's

Jerry jjer101@aol.com -- *W7KPL*

**KE2F -- Feb 23, 2004 15:13 ET**

My main objective in this contest was to work Europe on 40m. While this may not seem much of a deal for a normal station setup, I was trying it with 5 watts and an indoor portable trap dipole, also known as the Buddipole.

Conditions on 40m were more than favorable here in North Central Kentucky and so I tried the strongest stations first. Some heard me, but couldn't read me. Others just kept calling CQ. I can't say I blame them, the QRM being as it was. The ones that heard me tried very hard, though.

After about 12 attempts, I finally got through to CS6V in Portugal. And if I recall it correctly it only took one or two calls. Thank you again for picking me out of the noise there guys. That made my day. I also worked a number of Caribbean stations with the indoor setup.

The next day, I took my FT-817 QRP gear to our local clubhouse and used a fully grown dipole for 40 and 80 meters at about 25 feet. I got through to the Europeans quite nicely from there. Even on 80m I had a few contacts. England, Italy and Yugoslavia I believe.

So, in summary, it was a great success and I hope to see you all again for the second round.

Michael, KE2F -- *KE2F*

**W8JWN -- Feb 23, 2004 10:46 ET**

I had no intention of operating in this contest. I spend most of my contest time on SSB or RTTY; however, with the upgrade to Extra a few weeks before the contest and N1MMLogger, I found myself ripping right along on 80 and 40. I added 39 new countries on these bands! Conditions were exceptional on the low bands. I might make this a serious effort next year and operate more than the 12 hours I operated the past weekend. If so, I need to get a few cw filters for the FT1000MP! -- *W8JWN*

**N5PU -- Feb 23, 2004 10:13 ET**



Really had fun in this one. I didn't do all that well, but it was fun wringing out the new 'puter! Wish I had a QSK amp to try high power, oh well the 746PRO is still kicking. -- *N5PU*

**N5PU-Leon**

**ZS1AN -- Feb 24, 2004 03:50 ET**



Wire antennas only, dipoles on 20, 15 and 10 and a vertically polarized delta loop on 40. The ARRL DX contest last year was my first major international contest, so this was my first anniversary. This time at least I had computer logging, rather than the paper log and manual paddle I used last year! Some frustrating times in the afternoons when the only stations I could hear were the big multi-multis which I had already worked and was only managing 5 or 6 per hour. However the evenings, night and early mornings more than made up for this. I was able

## My Operating Position

to run on all bands at times, although 10m was only open briefly on both days. 40m was challenging, with lots of QRN from the African thunderstorms, not to mention the whole of Europe and America screaming at each other across the Atlantic, and low powered me off the side of the beams! At times it required some patience but this was rewarded when by the enthusiasm on the other side when the operator finally got my callsign with its ZS prefix. I'll be back with a beam next year, promise. -- ZSIAN

## K0BJ -- Feb 23, 2004 14:50 ET

K0BJ SOHP KS 20 hrs. (QRO only on 80-40-20)

This contest was a pleasant surprise condx. wise, especially on the low bands. I've always been a high-bander, but DXCC Challenge has got me interested in the WARC and low bands. After 35 years of hamming, I finally got up an unterminated EU/OC Bev a month ago. It helped on 160 but really came into its own on 80. Now I need to terminate that one, and add 3 more. This test netted me 16 new band DXCCs on 80, and 6 each on 160 and 40. I knew it was an atypical contest for me when Sat. mid-morning my highest mult band was 80!

### QSOs DXCC

160 29 20

80 83 52

40 114 57

20 149 64

15 196 67

10 65 31

TOTAL 636 291

555228 Claimed Score

For some reason I couldn't run - only had about a dozen run Qs. Being a dedicated S&Per by nature, that wasn't such a bad thing. Can upcoming SSB, and next year's tests, manage to be this good? -- K0BJ

---

**SV1XV -- Feb 23, 2004 14:40 ET**

Hi,

After two years I had the chance to have a few QSOs in this excellent contest. I had two targets:

1. Work ND and MT states. 2. Work a few USA & VE on 80m, so I can get some QSL cards on this band (still missing both countries in CW).

I only succeeded in working 7 USA stations on 80m: KI1G, AA1K, K1RM, AA3B, KY4A, K1XM and N2RM.

I intended to use the DX-cluster to find stations from ND and MT, but the operation of our local cluster was unreliable and I had not the chance to find any. I still spotted as many stations as practical, especially on 15 and 40 m.

A good opening on 15 m with New England and Mid Atlantic states occurred on Sunday afternoon, followed by a good opening on 40 m starting at about 2100z. 10 m did not open on Sunday. 20 m propagation was poor but I worked a W7WA and VA7NT.

Unfortunately, because of the low power of my transmissions, some USA stations have logged my callsign incorrectly. They may have me as IV1XV and SV1XU although I tried as much as possible to send them the correct callsign. I hope they discover their mistake during post-contest log processing, so they don't lose any points.

I would appreciate a QSL card by any and all stations worked in the contest, especially QSOs on 80 m and stations not worked before. QSL via the bureau is OK.

Radio: IC-706 MkII (100 W) Antenna: Dipole 80m/40m (inv-V, 20 feet above roof) Dipole 15m (10 feet above roof) Vertical 20m/10m Antenna tuner: MFJ-971 Software: Writelog 10.43F, WT4I tools

73 Costas SV1XV -- SV1XV

**G4DBL -- Feb 23, 2004 09:31 ET**

Very interesting conditions, for my single-band effort, on the Sunday.... 40m open nearly all day! Short path was still running at 10:15; switched on again at 15:15 and long-path already coming in! Short path resumed about 19:00!

Operation time was limited (about 250 valid Q's), and I'm looking to upgrade to an IC 746PRO



(IC 7400) for good CW working..... any of you guys selling??!

See you in the 'phone leg, probably as M8C!

73 to all,

Tim, g4dbl@qsl.net -- *G4DBL*

*Responsibility for content of all posted material rests exclusively with the item author. ARRL staff assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, and accuracy of items appearing on this page. All questions and comments should be directed to the item author.*