

Contest Soapbox

2004 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

32 Soapbox entries available

KB1FWN -- May 21, 2004 16:28 ET

We decided to pull the antennas and make a good Multi/Single effort. Tom KB1FWM, and myself buzzed around the radio for the weekend, hitting off some suprisingly good runs into EU on early morning 15. A larger dissapointment was 10 meters, which seemed determined not to open, until we found Kx1x two towns over also running on 10. The fact that we could hear each other so well on a band that was supposed to be open was frightening, and we left to head up to 20 meters. All the same, it was a fun weekend, plenty of multipliers, and the rate was enough to keep any contester going. -- *KB1FWN*

WA5YNE -- Apr 14, 2004 02:19 ET

I had a great time on the radio. I really great enjoying my 39th birthday weekend on the radio. Doing what I love the best. Dxing. I got several new countries. I can't wait until 2005. I know the band conditions were terrible at times. What the different. I enjoyed it. It a hobby and a lifestyle. -- *WA5YNE*

KC1XX -- Apr 3, 2004 21:38 ET

Congratulations to K3LR on his team's victory, cleaning our clocks on the "middle" bands (40/20/15). And also congratulations to W3LPL on a great score.

It's not whether you win or lose (winning is nice), but how you play the game, and we had lots of fun, as usual, so that's all that mattered.

160: Bill K1GQ did his usual iron-pants job. Once again, Friday night into Saturday morning produced the majority of our QSOs, but he kept at it through Sunday morning, working an additional 15 QSOs in 9 hours for 5 additional multipliers. He had at least one QSO in each of those 9 hours, but did not work anything after 07Z.

80: Conditions were down compared to previous years, but once again John W1FV beat the pack. The 2-over-2 stack did not have any problems this year. He logged a single JA Saturday morning and two more on Sunday.

40: Jim AD1C and Ken K1EA started off the contest by ripping off almost 70 QSOs in the first

hour, beating every other band. Ken had trouble working the Caribbean Friday night using the new four-square, until Bill K1GQ reminded us that the transmit antenna for the multiplier station was tied to the transmit antenna for the run station (4-el beam aimed at Europe). Oops. This is something we'll want to address in the future. Most remarkable contact was VQ9LA at 1243z Sunday morning beaming over the South Pacific, 1.5 hours after our sunrise. Dick WC1M helped a lot here to keep us from going mental.

20: Conditions were down from past years, but Bill W2RQ and Steve K6AW are still the go-to guys for this band. Unlike past years, the nighttime opening to the Pacific was very short. Sunday morning was very slow, resulting in hours of 1-1-1-0-1 QSO from 05Z to 09Z.

15: This was our money band this year, and Doug K1DG is the money operator. With 10M virtually closed to Europe, everyone moved down to 15M. It was nice to have HS and YB0 call in over-the-pole Saturday morning. It's not often that 15M beats 20M in multipliers, but that's just what happened this year.

10: Matt KC1XX just can't say enough good things about 10 meters. He had more fun listening to the FAA tower in Nashua. At times on Saturday, he could not hear the Caribbean, but stations in North Carolina and northern Brazil were coming in fine. He struggled to work D44AC at 1625Z (first non-North/South America) and ZS6WPX at 1633Z, but did not work Europe until working CT1BOH at 1900Z. That was the ONLY European worked on Saturday, Sunday was a little better, but still stations only 100 miles to the south were working Europe that Matt could not even hear.

Thanks as always to Christine and the girls for keeping us well taken care of.

See everyone again in the fall!

73 - KC1XX team -- *KC1XX*

K6FAF -- Apr 4, 2004 00:02 ET

First Arrl Dx Contest under this callsign, worked to figure out QTH capabilities (3550 feet a.s.l., 100w into a 3/3 10/15/20 at 18 feet over a down slope towards EU and AF, and an up slope towards AS and OC, under 5% for 15miles) Worked 12 hours total, 150 handpicked qso for 89 countries on 10/15/20 and 1 (for fun "HP") on 40m dipol. 15 new dxcc on 20 including EX, UA2, ER and UW. 20m on 3-7-04 was the best I have ever heard in 26 years of "hamming". EU was open for 8 hours, not only the Big Guns. 15m was normal, EU towards SP and YO as ODX. 10m no EU/DX. Got mislead by VQ5A, at first, but my logger asked for DXCC, so I found out it was "The big gun in my front yard" (-:),hihi. Never heard more than noise from 3b9, although I worked them before the test. All in all, need higher mast, no linear needed from here, had lotsa fun not working the Carribean...they were always 59-59++. I guess,

the autumn WPX 2004 will be my first try to get into the list; with rotor-turnable antenna at 30 feet (I hope). TNX to all the dx that picked me up. -- *K6FAF*

DK7AN -- Mar 31, 2004 01:08 ET



Last QSO on sunday morning on 80

Since two years I use a full size dipole for 80 meters. Now some more stations with good receiving antennas in North America can listen my 100 watts. With 80 meter contesting in ARRL DX contest I do not disturb my family. A few hours before sleeping to night and few hours before breakfast in the early morning big guns of the east coast are waiting for me
-- *DK7AN*

EA5DFV -- Mar 30, 2004 13:09 ET



Hello! This is my favourite contest and this year I was planning to run SO2R for first time. I can get some competitive second rig and other stuff, and this contest is very adequate for it with my fixed antenna setup. But the February 7th I broke my left leg and spend a week in the hospital. I return at home and I need to other weeks for go upstairs to the shack. And the worse thing, I can sit in a hard chair for more that 2 hours. Anyway, when the contest time arrive, I will try to do it. I can't operate all the time, but the SO2R perform quite good. Maybe

Mr. Murphy was very busy with me a month ago.

The results a little bit worse that 2003, but the conditions, specially on 10m, were no very good. The path from here seem better to the west coast in the upper bands.

My son take this picture when I was operating.

73 and many thanks for the QSOs -- *EA5DFV*

N2LWL -- Mar 24, 2004 03:00 ET



Smokey the Goat kept coming over to see what we were doing. I think some of our contacts heard him on the air.

After almost ten years of being off-air, I decided to get into the swing of things with the ARRL DX Phone contest. I picked up 16 new countries towards DXCC, and my 10-year-old son Eryk saw I was having lots of fun - now he wants to get his ticket! Eryk and his sister Kelsey are attending local classes, and in three weeks we may have to buy some more radios.

Conditions were far better than I expected. Using only a vertical antenna and 5 to 10 watts of power, I only had to call once or twice to get through. All of the ops we heard or worked were very courteous, and now my son and I are planning to work QRP from several counties in Wyoming and Colorado. -- *N2LWL*

7J2YAF -- Mar 20, 2004 06:20 ET



I was almost ready for 15 meters single band operation. Just 20 minutes before the contest starting, Godzilla(Strong Wind) came to my station and broke my tower down. -- *JA1KSO*



NX9T -- Mar 17, 2004 19:49 ET



Greetings! Just a quick note to say hello and Thanks for all the q's during the contest. I was only able to participate for approximately 8 hours due to family obligations(two boys, ages 4 and 6), but had a great time. Logged slightly over 525 contacts and operated mostly S/P except for a short "run" Saturday morning. Thanks again....look to see you in the next one(WPX). 73, jeff -- *NX9T*

This was the really big event of the contest weekend, my 4 year old "Jon-Jon" learning to ride his bike without training wheels!

ZS6WPX -- Mar 18, 2004 10:44 ET



Nice Contest! I only spent about 1/3 of the time on as I had other things taking me away from the radio, and only managed to work 10/20m. Bottom line: Mega Fun! de ZS6WPX
-- ZS6WPX



WB0SMS -- Mar 16, 2004 18:18 ET

No snow on ground even when contest started. This is what the CL-36 and the 40 meter beams both at 75 feet looked like at 7 am Sat. morn. Ended up with two feet of snow and went down in the bitterroot valley on Monday and played a round of golf in a tee shirt at 62 degrees! Thats Montana!!!!

73's Duane WB0SMS -- WB0SMS



Iced up in Montana



Iced up in Montana

WB6RNS -- Mar 14, 2004 21:21 ET

The first contest I've operated in more than 30 years. I had a great time! 100 watts and a vertical worked a lot better than I thought was ever possible. Now all I need do is convince the XYL that I need that beam for the next contest!!! Thanks to all who struggled listening for my signal.
-- *WB6RNS*

PE1S -- Mar 13, 2004 13:34 ET

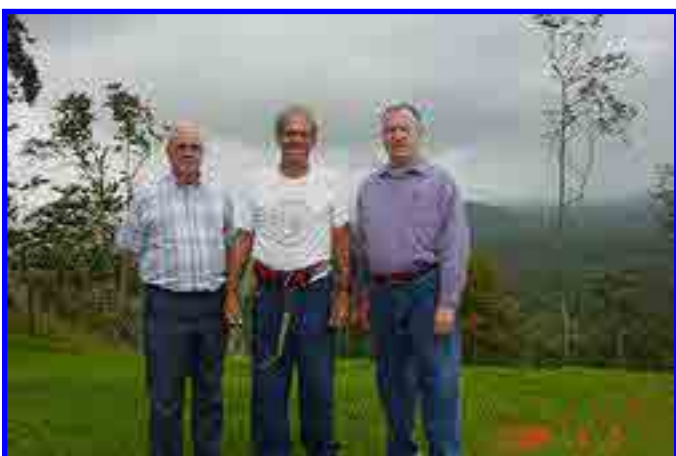
One of my first contests, doing up some experience and distributing some points. :) My name is Eric (37) and my QTH is in Sappemeer in north of The Netherlands near to the German border. I worked with a Kenwood with about 150W. My antenna on 20M was a GP. Next time for the serious work!!!

See on DX (contest). 73, Eric -- *PE1S*



PE1S, Eric, in the shack in Sappemeer

TI5A -- Mar 14, 2004 23:30 ET



From the left - Bob My Dad , Keko TI2KD & Robert W5AJ with the view to EU from the front yard of the station.

My first trip to the TI5A site. The site is about 40 miles north of the TI5N site. It's a two and half hour drive through the Mountains and jungle. My Dad (74 and still traveling!) went with me this trip to see the country. He saw a lot of rain.

We dined at TI5KD's home our 1st night there. TI2IY is a great cook! His home is also the qth of the TI5N contesting station. Thursday morning we headed for the TI5A site.

Ti5A is a remote location. 70 & 130 foot towers support the antennas. An impressive 2 element

full sized quad for 80 is hung from a boom on the 130 foot tower. It's impressive to see what Keko has done at this remote location. The 130 foot tower is Totally impressive sticking up on the horizon. To add to the situation the house and towers are located with nice drop off in USA/EU directions. The 130 foot tower has a fixed 2 element 40 meter yagi on top that is just an excellent antenna into EU or States. You have to hand it to Keko for getting a 130 footer up and populated at TI5A.

On arriving at TI5A the reflector on the 2-element 80 meter quad was wrapped around its self. The quad setup had 3 guys broke due to the high winds that persisted for a week before our arrival. Friday there was a break in the wind and with Keko on the tower and myself at the guy wire eating tree the nylon guy wire was freed. The nylon was 100 lb test but I was "floating" at

times trying to pull it down out of the tree. One of the guy wires was not replaced and the director shape was different but seemed functional. The driven element had an unmarked balun and the quad resonated about 3750khz with R=25. The balun sits about 2 feet off the roof of the house and at times there was RF in the laptop during operation on 80.

While Keko was on the tower he untangled the 80 meter sloper and I attached it to a tree out to the west.

My main laptop quit Friday before the contest. Humidity? The backup was a 486-100 laptop. I did not use the DVK (soundcard) and had no DVK until Saturday night when I got Keko to lend me his laptop to use the DVK functions. Was a pain to reach over to hit the F2/F3 keys but helped save the voice by using it.

The beverage did not seem right Thursday night and rerouted it Friday to get it off the tower steel guys. Then opened up the beverage box and found the box contains a pre-amplifier. There were no instructions or power supply. I carry cores & wire and wound a matching transformer. The beverage sounded good during the contest but suspect a proper transformer is in order. Walked out the beverage & was impressed with the prior 160-meter operators putting this up. It works great. Would be interested in hearing from others that have a beverage on hill, slope, etc.

FWIW - Several comments on how loud the signal was and several time wasting comments that it couldn't be 100 watts. The landlord and a retired government inspector monitored the operation. I'm not sure you can get much better on verification that no amp was in the shack or used. Considering the solar cycle I would expect even a stronger N/S path next year. You really can be loud at Low Power & I think Keko's antennas speak for themselves on this one.

160. The bandplan is being followed in general to operate SSB above 1843. Those few listening below 1843 for stateside don't have the pounding signals of the kilowatts, Multi/Multi's and others inside their roofing filters. Plus during the SSB test weekend there is little QRM or interference below 1843. There is an unfair advantage to not following the band plan and it's time for the ARRL to step forward and enforce by deducting contacts or forget the band plan applies.

During the contest it rained and then rained with wind. I suspect that during one of the Saturday afternoon showers it dropped 10 or 11 inches in an hour. Makes for a heathly ground.

Followed the P40W advice to snooze Sunday morning. Think "W" hit it well that Sunday rates make up for the snooze.

The site is equipped with a 2-element quad for 20/15/10 on northern 70-foot tower. This tower has a 4-element Ten meter beam about 35 feet up fixed north. The tower over looks a

downward slope to the states. The Low Band tower is about 130 feet and sports a 402 cushcraft fixed north on a mast above the tower. At the top of the tower is the 160 meter dipole. A 80 meter sloper is also hung from the top and stretched out to the west. A two-element 80 meter quad pointed north is on this tower with a 3 element 40 inside. The center of the quads are about 60 feet. The site is about 1450 feet above sea level with slopes downward toward USA/EU.

Additional pictures at <http://www.qsl.net/ti5a> . -- W5AJ

KE6CC -- Mar 14, 2004 11:37 ET

Well this is my second year of contesting and I am really beginning to enjoy it. I decided (before entering the contesting phase) that my station will not ever be competitive in the general fray so I enter QRP. What a blast! My rig is an Icom 756ProII into a B&W all band folded dipole at 30 feet. Of course it helps that my QTH is at 6,000 feet. I really appreciate the many patient ops who worked with me digging out the call for contacts. It gets very frustrating though when stations are booming in at 20 and 30 db over 9 and they can't hear me. But then I worked several EU stations that reported I was very loud (someday I may understand this radio stuff). All-in-all a very fun time. My next goal is to get the contact rate above 6 or 8 per hour. Maybe a beam next year. -- KE6CC

N4SEA -- Mar 14, 2004 11:15 ET

Even with rather bad conditions - 10 meters was almost non-existent in West Virginia - Saturday wasn't too bad. Sunday proved to be a wash but hey it was still contest time and that's what counted. -- N4SEA

TI8M -- Mar 14, 2004 06:16 ET



WOW - Great Contest! The ARRL DX 'test continues to be a good contest for our group to operate from Costa Rica. The M/2 category certainly is the most competitive in this contest but luckily our group does this for the fun, not for final placement.

Our TI8M crew added several new ops this year, including TI2MOT and continued to increase our fun and Q's. It's really great to operate with two local hams, TI2MOT and our old friend, TI2KAC, both avid contestors. We remain committed to having fun and increasing our "fun factor" with each contest while making

**Back L-R Carlos - TI2KAC, Bob - W4BD,
Eddie - K4UN, Brian - NA4BW Front L-R
Mauricio - TI2MOT, Keith - W4KTR & Bill -
K4WPM**

appropriate dents in the local seafood population.

We spent an extra 1/2 day getting the 160m sloper up in it's usual position and it proved worthy with 209 Q / 43 M. The low bands are certainly playing a bigger part in our results than previously. I heard one comment about our weak signal on 160m but I stand by my reply that "We put our sloper in the tallest tree around and just can't do much better!". At least 209 folks heard us.

We had excellent openings on 10m with 1410 Q / 53 M for a pleasant surprise. Evidently 10m was not as good in the states so a big "Thanks!" for all who worked us, especially the last few 10m mults we snagged, ID, MT, WY & NV, though we never could find UT or ND on 10m.

We certainly have some ideas for our next effort with a Beverage at the top of our list of "Gotta Have's". It's still alot of fun to do this with only two yagi's hanging in trees and wire slopers for 40m/80m/160m. We used WriteLog for the second time and utilized it's features a bit more with a few more options yet to implement.

QSL Via TI2KAC - info on QRZ.com. Look for us in Oct in CQWW.

Bob - TI8/W4BD -- *W4BD*

KB8STK -- Mar 13, 2004 01:25 ET



WOW This was a great DX Contest. I got to use my new electronic Contest Logging Program from N3FJP. It worked really well and there was a lot of dx to chase. I tried the contest last year and found that it is a great DX contest. I hope everyone that took advantage of this contest had fun and enjoyed it as much as I do. Hope Next Year to get a few more dxcc and get more time to operate. -- *KB8STK*

WOW I just Worked Pakastan.

W4MOT -- Mar 12, 2004 16:11 ET

WoW my first DX Contest and it was a blast!!!

I worked 15 meters and had a modest set up. IC 718 with a R% vertical up about 20 feet or so.

But I managed to work 62 countries and 134 Contacts in 48 hours. Not too shabby for a rookie ;.

Best highlights was working AR1K in Pakistan at 0015 UTC on 15 meters.

Also hit JH VK 5U HC and countless others

I heard a station in Bahrain and he repeated my call sign but we didn't complete the contact that was a bummer :.

Already looking forward to next years contest I am hooked on DX :)

Bryan N4EBC Club Operator W4MOT -- *N4EBC*

KE7NO -- Mar 11, 2004 23:31 ET

As always, what a kick. Some highlights on this end EA8BH on 80m, LZ0A on 40m, TU2CI on 20m, and ZK1CG on 10m. I was expecting more difficult conditions. Ten never really "started", and I still did well with 40m - 15m.

The only "down side" to the contest was the lid on 80m jamming JH4UYB. No matter what you said (or what expletives you used) we still made our contact. So did everyone else that was there. I guess, in some bizarre way, thank you for giving us "practice under adverse conditions".
-- *KE7NO*

DJ1AA -- Mar 11, 2004 11:49 ET



Hello contest freaks around the world,

This is Mirko from Kreiensen in north west Germany. I had a lot of fun during this very interesting ARRL contest. My idea was to reach again a good place under the top 10 in Germany. One week before the contest starts, I got the chance to buy a very cheap new Kenwood TS-2000x ! I was very happy and want to check what's possible to reach with the TS-2000x on single band 20m with 100 watts only. I have to

You see my 70 feet steel tower and the 6 Element YAGI looking direction USA during this ARRL International DX Contest 2004. We got snow and ice tonight and I think this is a good RF earth for the antenna as well.



This is a view from a neighbor plain, some hundred meter far away. I am very happy with this German 6 element beam.



Very closed to my shack, there is the feedpoint from the 70 feet steel tower. Let have a look down to the ground. A 10 tons reinforced concrete is "under" the platform.

say that my 6 element yagi is working very fine, high up on the tower about 70 feet from the ground, looking direction USA. In this case it is not necessary to work with kilowatts. During the contest, I reached US /mobil stations in contest as well. The only bad story is, that I lost my using frequency because some kilowatt station from Europe did not get my signals and breaks in or overtook my frequency. After this, I had to look for a new possible frequency and this took sometimes up to 30 minutes from my active time. These are my live LOW Power experience which I made. Perhaps next year 2005 with 500 watts back in the ARRL DX contest, lets see.

I think it was a nice experience to check out what is possible. The WX conditions during the contest: It was very cold and we got ice and snow. I live closed to the Harz mountains in JO41XU. I remember exactly regarding my last "hot" DXpedition end of 2003. I was QRV from KENYA 5Z4, East Africa with my own call sign 5Z4HU (5Z4/DJ1AA) QSL via DJ1AA. The temperature in this location is much warmer..hihi. I hope to be active in a coming up future contest from Nairobi, Kenya as well.

Information about my conditions: ARRL SECTION: DX. CONTEST: ARRL-DX-SSB. CATEGORY: SINGLE-OP 20M LOW SSB. CLAIMED SCORE: 85542. OPERATOR: DJ1AA. Claimed Qso 538. Claimed Dupes 0. Claimed Pts 1614. Claimed Mult 53. Equipment: Kenwood TS-2000x, Power: 100 Watts output, Headset Pro Heil, 6 Element YAGI, 23m up from the ground, German Contest Software, QW 4.0. Log change to Cabrillo format by software LM 3.99 (very nice and easy software by DL8WAA, thanks Frank !

Hope to meet you again in the next international contests. I will be QRV in the WPX end of this



month. See You !!!

73 Mirko (www.dj1aa.de)
-- *DJ1AA / AB0DL / 5Z4H*

Okay, this is the very happy DJ1AA. I got this new Kenwood TS-2000x from Kenwood USA about 1 week before the ARRL International DX Contest 2004 starts. In this case a good and hard test for my new equipment during this contest. Oh my god, I have to learn a lot about the faster using of this machine. So much possible parameter but I start without learning by manual. I like learning by doing..



Warm greetings from the indian ocean, Mombasa Island. My last DXPedition under my own call 5Z4HU (5Z4/DJ1AA) in the end of 2003. I hope to have the chance to be a part in a coming up contest from this nice part of the world. In Kenya, East Africa I had my ICOM IC-706MK2G with me. This is my DXPedition equipment since a lot of years. 100 Watts into loop antenna or long wire, sometimes indoor if nothing other is possible. Thanks for your attention and I hope to find news from > YOU < as well on this very nice ARRL information page. Greetings 73 es 55 from Mirko DJ1AA<>AB0DL<>5Z4HU

RX3RC -- Mar 10, 2004 18:07 ET



I was not seriously in the contest, just passing a few points around my friends. Hope to see yiu in next ARRL-DX-SSB`2005. -- *RX3RC*

W4WR -- Mar 10, 2004 22:30 ET

After 5 years of being "radio-less" in a Florida condo, I finally snuck a Sigma-5 up on the roof. So far, no complaints from the neighbors. So yes, I was antenna handicapped. We had company for the weekend. The dog ate my homework.

But I still managed 66 countries on 15m in about 5 hours! What a blast. That little 9 foot antenna (100 watts) was breaking pileups!

My farm is a garden. But it's bearing fruit. Look for me in WPX!

W4WR and WB1HBB (club)



-- W4WR

There otta be a new category!

WW9R -- Mar 10, 2004 15:46 ET

The contest was a lot of fun. It would have been nice if ten would have opened up. Why is it that even if ten is shut down, you can always hear PJ2T?

There seemed to be more qrp stations this year and they sounded great.

The highlight of the contest for me was my 40 meter contacts. My antenna farm consists of a Gap Titan DX vertical, so even though it loads nicely on 40, I don't expect to work DX. But I worked 14 countries on 40 meters saturday night. Thank goodness they had great ears.

Now that I have been bitten by 40 meters, I can't wait until the next test...

73's Pat WW9R -- WW9R

W2NSF -- Mar 10, 2004 11:35 ET

My first DX contest! I made significant additions to my DXCC list. Thanks to everyone; it was a blast!! -- W2NSF

JS1DCZ -- Mar 10, 2004 03:25 ET

nice contest! I was first time DX contest. meny tnx from ja! masahide obata -- JS1DCZ

W8JWN -- Mar 9, 2004 11:18 ET

I really enjoyed the contest despite computer problems causing the computer clock to lose about

30 minutes before I caught it and reset. I operated single band 40 meters as usual. I am getting too old to operate all day and night. HI! So, the daylight hours are for sleeping and keeping the XYL happy.

Conditions to Asia were poor. I had partial contacts with DU and HL but they couldn't get my full call through the west coast QRM. The Whiskey November gets through but the Juliet seems to be a real problem. I still won't get a vanity call! TA and LZ0 made up for the loss of the two Asian multipliers.

I worked 79 countries on 40 this year and this has been the best in all of the years I have operated. -- *W8JWN*

K4DET -- Mar 8, 2004 21:39 ET

What a weekend! This is my first contest as an Amateur Extra, and I love the new bands. My 756PRO held up fine driving 175 feet of 75 ohm RG-11 into a homebrew multiband dipole at 70 feet. I need more antenna for 15m, that's for sure.

It would've been a lot easier if I'd found my headset - I worked the whole contest using the stock microphone and tiny speaker build into the radio!

Thanks and 73 to everyone who took the time to pick my weak signal out of the noise and deal with my phonetically-challenging call. -- *K4DET*

K6SGH -- Mar 8, 2004 10:55 ET



15 meter (near) and 17 meter (far) moxons.

My contacts were down more than 50% this year over last. This is due to the fact that I only worked 15 and 10 meters, and I used low power. Running a KW certainly gets you heard in the pileups. The highpoint for me for the contest was working XV1X, Hanoi Vietnam. That was certainly a new one for me. This was a greyline contact using my 15m moxon antenna at 20 feet pointing 300 degrees. Also during that one hour period, I got contacts to most of the Asian countries that were participating that evening (about 15 countries that I heard).

Overall, I did not work too many hours...about 10. So I guess I did pretty well making 171 contacts to 62 dxcc's. I think I will go back to high power again next year. -- *K6SGH*

YI3DX -- Mar 8, 2004 09:56 ET

I operated YI3DX in Baghdad, Iraq during the DX contest. I am employed by the Coalition Provisional Authority in rebuilding Iraq. My station is located in a small kitchen in the Republican Palace inside the Green Zone, a large secure area.

Saturdays and Sundays are work days here, with Friday being the light-work day. But I managed to squeeze in some operating time.

Propagation was rather poor, but I was able to make some QSO's on 15 and 20. I worked mostly east coast and middle-Atlantic US and Ontario, with an Illinois station mixed in also. Then on 20, I worked some stations in Oregon, Washington, and Alberta. I never heard stations from any other states.

It was difficult completing some QSO's as my 100 watts and G5RV wasn't being heard very well. But the stations were very pleased when they finally completed my call and realized that I was in Iraq, giving them a new multiplier. I appreciated their "stay safe" wishes, and I thank them here again.

I tried calling CQ but received no responses. A kw and a beam would have been helpful.

I planned on operating on Sunday evening, after 7:30 PM, local time, 1630 UTC. I got on my rig, but then the attack alarm siren located on the Palace roof sounded, and the procedure is for personnel to go to the basement for a safe place. Rockets were shot into the Green Zone, hitting the unoccupied Al-Rasheed hotel, but none came close to the Palace. The attack news was very shortly all over the news networks. Needless to say, it's the first time my operating was interrupted by a rocket attack. -- *YI3DX*

N8CBW -- Mar 8, 2004 19:34 ET

Contest station was my mobile installation parked in Fairborn, OH. 100W from a IC-706 MkIIIG into ATOC Mini HF sticks. Operated for just over an hour and generated 12 QSOs from 9 countries on 10 and 15 meters for a whopping 360 points! (Everyone has to start somewhere.)

Goal for the contest was for everything to work. Success there. Band switching included jumping out of the car, swapping sticks, and jumping back into the car. Previous work to tune the sticks gave good SWR on each band. Logging was clock, paper and pen because there wasn't any more room in the front of the car. -- *N8CBW*

WO7T -- Mar 8, 2004 00:31 ET

It actually got too warm (84F) here in Phoenix and I was forced to halt the yard chores and cool off in the shack with the FT-817 bringing great QRP pleasure. -- WO7T

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