

Contest Soapbox

2006 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

36 Soapbox entries available

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FS5UQ -- Mar 16, 2006 23:09 ET



Additional Photos -- *K3LP*

David (K3LP) after the contest on Monday



David (K3LP) before the contest on Friday



A hill top view from the FS5UQ station
owned by Mort (PJ7UQ)

FS5UQ -- Mar 15, 2006 23:05 ET

FS5UQ (OPR. K3LP), SINGLE OPERATOR, LOW
POWER, UN-ASSISTED



David (K3LP) sending/receiving cw during the contest as FS5UQ



David (K3LP) setting up to operate as FS5UQ (Opr. K3LP) from the FS5UQ hill top station in St. Martin



David (K3LP) installing the wire antennas on the commercial 100' tower at the FS5UQ hill top station in St. Martin



David (K3LP) Sunday morning as the sun is just entering the FS5UQ Station. The

The ARRL DX CW 2006 contest had many new challenges. Twenty (20), 10 and 160 meter bands presented new frustrations for me this year.

First of all, my 20 meter QSOs on both Saturday and Sunday mornings were few in coming. There was a second operator (FS/KN5G) on the island operating single op 20 meters, but the guys on Aruba seem, each year, not to be impacted by this type of issue. It's not uncommon for stateside to be pointing toward Europe and not hearing the Caribbean until almost 10:30AM. It just seemed slower than normal. I was down about 300-400 QSOs on this band at the end of the contest. I kept myself busy operating 40 and 80 meters to fill the void, until I got 15 meters going at a decent rate.

The 40' light weight aluminum crank-up tower cable was damaged (rusted beyond use) with a rotator that would not rotate and could not be fixed until the aluminum tower could be lowered. I pointed the beam at the mid-west and operated the contest with the LogPeriodic beam in a fixed position both days. It's unclear how much my results were impacted by lacking some antenna gain by not using a mono-band beam and losing the antenna directivity (i.e. no antenna rotation).

Ten (10) meters yielded zero activity for me until Sunday afternoon around 1800 GMT, when I finally made my first QSO on this band. I had a 2 hour opening that provided 179 QSOs and 35 multipliers, and believe me, I was grateful to have what came my way.

My 160 meter QSO and multiplier totals were both up this year, but I was still pained by not being able to get the north and northwest coast (OR, WA, VE7, VE6, VE5, UT, NV, ID) and northern mid-west multipliers (MT, ND, SD, WY, VE4) on this band. My 350' beverage was working fine and I seemed to work everything I could hear as I moved them from 40 or 80 meters to 160 meters. I just didn't get the proper openings. I tried at sunrise, during the middle of night and 1 hour before their sunrise, each time moving the needed multipliers, knowing the call sign, but just couldn't hear them, therefore not working the multiplier. This was a real bummer!

I was able to exceed my last year "J6R" QSO and multiplier accomplishments on 80, 40 and 15 meters. I was very happy with the results on these bands.

W3ARS (Clint) and I put up a two element wire beam for 40 meters that worked with great results from the 1,400

photo is called "Blinded By the Light" - a Single Operator without sleep in over 30 hours



David (K3LP) on Monday morning after the contest



FS5UQ hill top photo of St. Martin

This was another fun contest. I can't wait until next year.

David Collingham -- *K3LP*

C6ASB -- Mar 16, 2006 16:14 ET



View from the C6ASB operating position

homebrewed 20/15m version of the PAR, and a homebrew center loaded 16ft vertical for 40-10m. A full writeup and more pictures can be found at www.ak0m.com. -- *AK0M*

C6AHR -- Mar 15, 2006 12:13 ET

hill top location.

I used two IC-746PROs in a SO2R configuration. These radios were excellent for operating the CW contest and the rig's size made it desirable for taking on my DX-pedition. The IC-746PROs are a must on my future DX-peditions. I really liked the CW filters and numerous features bundled into this rig's medium sized package. I'm hooked on the IC-746PRO after being disappointed by using other rig types on my prior dx-peditions.

I changed my sleeping arrangement this year. I slept three hours (starting 1.5 hours before sunrise) on Saturday morning and had no sleep on Sunday. Having no sleep on Sunday just didn't work for me. By the last two hours of the contest, where I needed to be focused to get the 250-300 Hour QSO rate, I had difficulty maintaining the rate over 225. I just wanted to go to sleep – the brain to hand and keyboard actions just didn't want to play full blast anymore. Next year, I'll be changing my sleeping arrangement until I get it right.

Over all, I was able to improve my overall score in this competition compared to my prior Low Power contest DX-peditions (i.e. J6/K3LP, J6R, etc.).

I'll add to the growing list of C6A soapbox comments! I operated from Abaco Island from a small beachfront bungalow at Casuarina Pt. Once again I entered in the QRP category, hoping to substantially up my score from last year. However, I encountered some operating conditions that I have yet to explain satisfactorily that really limited my station performance compared to years past. Still it was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed the nice wx and fishing. Better luck next time!

Rig was an IC-703 at 5w output. Antennas were a PAR Electronics EF-20/40 endfed halfwave wire vertical, a homebrew center loaded 16ft vertical for 40-10m. A full writeup and more pictures can be found at www.ak0m.com. -- *AK0M*

7 power outages for 3.5 hours during prime time Sat. and Sunday evenings can take the fun out of the hunt! Sure



N8PR at C6AHR, Lucaya, Grand Bahama Island

was fun to be in the Bahamas, though. Glad to make first time qso'S for so many on 160. I'm looking forward to going back next year with the power lines all working ;-)
-- N8PR

C6APG -- Mar 12, 2006 00:35 ET



160 foot tower next to radio ops

Despite losing 3.5 hours of prime operating time due to seven power failures, I, Bob, Pete, and Bruce all had a great time in the Bahamas! The Lucaya end of Grand Bahama island is quiet, pretty, and lends itself to contest operating (usually without power interruptions). Enclosed are some pictures of the ops and their stations along with the antennas. Now, I have to go back next year! -- K4PG



C6AKQ, Bob (N4BP)



C6AOV, Bruce (W4OV)



C6AOV, Bruce (W4OV) and Pete, C6AHR



C6APG, KB (K4PG)

OH0JFP -- Mar 7, 2006 07:26 ET



Essential hardware for ARRL DX Contest in Scandinavia - snow-chains

Confessions of a last minute guest operator

I decided to visit my friend in Åland Islands and use his station in the ARRL DX Contest CW on Saturday morning. The sky was clear, no snow in sight and not very cold. By the time I got to Mariehamn in the afternoon it was snowing steadily. Fortunately I brought snow-chains in the trunk of my car. However, I have not used them for 5 years and they slipped off the tires ten times before I got to the hill where Sture OH0JFP has his radio shack. The 20 m band was in quite good shape this weekend so I stayed on this band. Not any impressive score but still fun



My host Sture, OH0JFP digging out the base of his rotary tower with large VHF antennas and a small HF tribander on top.

J6/G4BVY -- Mar 4, 2006 12:12 ET



The view from the "shack" window



The antenna

after all these years. The first ARRL DX Contest I entered was in 1964. Next year I will try to be in some warmer place... For phone contests I should get a voice-keyer or equivalent because my beer drinking rate is much lower than in CW events. -- *SM0JHF*

By chance I was in St Lucia for the event on a holiday. Gear was a IC706 with 100 watts to a 20m dipole fed with 300 ohm ribbon. 14MHz and 21MHz were excellent but I couldn't break through on 7MHz with the short antenna. Nothing was heard on 28MHz. Only about 4 hours operating - wish I'd done more!! From the frantic pile ups I guess I was a unique DXCC entity in the event. Great fun!

73s, Roger -- *G4BVY*

EA7AAW -- Mar 1, 2006 08:15 ET

Hi to everybody : I am very happy with my participation again in the 2006 ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST CW. I have participated in the category Single-op all qrp cw. The transceiver used, Heathkit HW-9 with 4 watts. The antennas here, a dipole works on 80 mts., a dipole on 40 mts. and with a yagui three elements on 10/15/20 meters. The propagation was very

terrible in 10 meters. Thank you to everyone who strained to hear me with only 4 watts. All the best to everybody and see you in the next contest. EA7AAW -- EA7AAW

DD1IM -- Mar 1, 2006 03:26 ET

Hi all,

had had a bit more time (6 hrs, with bks, so: 281 qsos, 96 mults, claimed score 80,928 pts) to operate, but unhappily I couldn't ride out the 15m opening on Saturday afternoon due to family & qrl tasks. Still some requests concerning my cw-unusual (cept-class-2) prefix, but did meet mni friends, who remembered..., hi. Hrd some more stns, but no response mostly: no real chance w/ic-756pro3 @ 90w & force12 sigma gt5 @ 7m or portable w3dzz @ 7/1.5m, 80m asl, but well, was wondering even wkd westcoasters on 40m & midwest on 80m with such a toy ant... Mni tks 4 higher speed cw operation, I am totally a qrq fan!

Tu all us/cdn fellows & arrl 4 work and test.

Vy 73, gl, hpe cu(agn) es cwfe de Sascha DD1IM (member of DARC, DOK K27) -- DD1IM

SC3A -- Feb 25, 2006 18:55 ET



We entered the contest with my new callsign at SM3RAB:s DX- and contest QTH(JP92DX) with half throttle all the way due to some family business. Good low band condx and very poor over 20 meters. But upcoming weekend in the Phone-part we will boost up the turbo pressure to 110% level on all bands except 160 meters. Thanx to SM3CCM who lend us his Drake L4-B linear as the SM3RAB:S Dentron MLA-2500B do not feel very well these days. Transceiver used: Yaesu FT-1000MP. -- SM3WMU

This is what it looks like at this time of the year at JP92DX. Photos by SM3WMU.



SM3RAB:s antennas for 40-10 meters. A fullsize quarterwave vertical is used on 80 meters.

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Page last modified: 03:31 PM, 05 Jul 2006 ET

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