

2008 ARRL 160 Meter Contest Results

Top Band 'test draws record crowd December 5-7.

Gary Breed, K9AY
k9ay@k9ay.com

No sunspots? Who cares! If you thought the band seemed unusually crowded, you were correct — a record 1281 logs were submitted. While the solar minimum generally benefits lower frequency bands, this particular weekend didn't have great band conditions, but propagation was certainly good enough to hold the interest of newcomers and old timers alike.

No operator was more enthusiastic than Tomas Magyla, VK2CCC. Tomas scouted out a remote location three hours' drive out of Sydney, and with the help of some Aussie "locals" (see photo) got his antenna installed just before sunset. His adventure ended with poor conditions toward North America and only one QSO in the contest log, but he is undaunted and will surely do it again!

This is just one of many stories about special efforts to get on the air or put up special antennas for this contest as hams are inspired to do the best they can. Now, on to the results!

Multi-operator

In this single-band contest, a "multi-op" entry can be one operator with spotting assistance, a few friends sharing the operating load at one of their stations, or a whole team of operators and equipment. The top four spots represent all three styles. The top spot was captured by the KC1XX gang in NH. Operating from Matt's big station where the antenna systems are always being improved

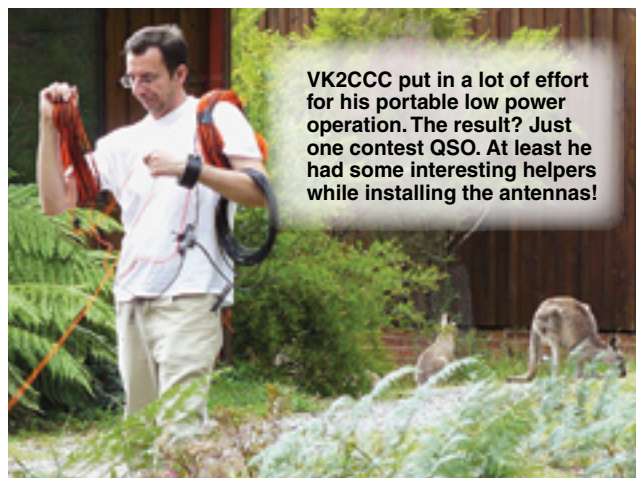
and refined, they made 1753 QSOs and collected 131 multipliers.

The 2nd place WE3C team from the EPA section included three operators who found the same number of multipliers, but fewer QSOs, than the leaders. Out in IL, another big team at WB9Z captured 3rd place, making the most QSOs of any multi-op entry and achieving a "personal best" result for that station. The 4th place finisher is Charles, K3WW, who demonstrated his experience in the style of one operator plus spotting assistance.

As the Top Ten shows, this was a highly competitive category, as the next six scores were within an 11 percent spread.

Single Operator, High Power

"The last time I did a full-time effort in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest seems to have been 1974, my senior year in college, when I ran a sloper from the window of my 18th floor



Regional Scores

A = QRP, B = Single Op Low Power, C = Single Op High Power, D = Multi-operator. Columns represent Call sign, Score, QSOs, Mults and Class.

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)					Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)					Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)					Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)					West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)				
W3TS	66,856	554	61	A	W4TMR	49,434	373	66	A	K9NW	86,691	606	71	A	W0GJ	97,881	627	79	A	N7IR	52,895	367	71	A
N1BUG	49,662	386	62	A	K4ORD	37,077	360	51	A	N8BB	73,584	660	56	A	N0UR	66,688	523	64	A	VE7VV	17,300	174	50	A
AA1CA	40,915	419	49	A	N4AX	16,611	175	49	A	W8VE	17,808	213	42	A	WX7G	54,924	400	69	A	K6EI	16,092	226	36	A
K3ZW	38,178	347	54	A	KW4JS	12,560	160	40	A	W9LO	15,826	197	41	A	W7J1	47,192	356	68	A	N6WG	12,996	184	36	A
K2QO	28,567	273	53	A	WK4P	12,423	149	41	A	VE3WZ	14,490	176	42	A	KI0II	18,810	179	55	A	K6MI	9,120	117	40	A
N1UR	168,432	915	88	B	N2WN	213,072	1120	92	B	K9IG	207,270	1137	90	B	K0DI	177,633	1093	81	B	KB7Q	187,912	1125	83	B
K1EP	168,432	907	88	B	WA4PGM	177,644	977	89	B	VE3NE	190,538	978	94	B	W0UO	159,375	926	85	B	W7RH	115,619	665	83	B
N1IX	118,989	701	81	B	W04O	111,160	792	70	B	KF9D	143,528	927	77	B	AC0W	147,120	915	80	B	NT6K	105,612	660	78	B
K2ZR	117,238	797	73	B	W4AA	100,464	566	84	B	K4FT	142,236	865	81	B	NCTW	140,371	916	77	B	W6JTI	87,549	556	77	B
N3GJ	111,750	738	75	B	WA1FCN	99,408	647	76	B	NE9U	141,588	865	81	B	N5OE	120,633	758	79	B	N6RK	83,148	511	78	B
K1DG	573,780	1621	131	C	K3ZM	565,370	1692	130	C	K9DX	526,320	1822	129	C	K5NA	373,520	1542	112	C	N6TR	235,405	1235	89	C
K1LZ	545,024	1584	128	C	W4MYA	479,875	1632	125	C	VE3EJ	481,203	1590	127	C	NR5M	361,600	1469	113	C	W7RN	169,420	946	86	C
W1UE	479,125	1434	125	C	N5RR	325,038	1434	109	C	VE3EY	407,480	1478	122	C	(NM5M, op)					(W6EU, op)				
K1ZZ	436,158	1464	123	C	K4TD	300,991	1321	107	C	K1LT	386,631	1455	119	C	W0SD	350,168	1631	104	C	KC7V	148,764	848	84	C
W3BGN	383,933	1294	121	C	WX4G	262,182	1099	111	C	K9AY	329,616	1456	108	C	(W0DB, op)					K7BG	137,615	799	85	C
															K0SR	270,908	1417	94	C	W6XX	130,745	787	79	C
															W0UA	255,668	1313	92	C					
KC1XX	570,112	1753	131	D	N1LN	422,520	1589	120	D	WB9Z	482,306	1832	121	D	N0NI	348,140	1622	103	D	N7DD	166,584	916	88	D
WE3C	510,245	1567	131	D	AA4NC	315,280	1321	112	D	K5ZG	442,062	1651	123	D	W0NO	310,373	1483	101	D	N6RO	131,064	714	86	D
K3WW	461,264	1528	127	D	N4PN	266,832	1256	102	D	K8CC	344,877	1482	111	D	KD0S	171,108	1019	84	D	K7OX	129,444	754	84	D
N02R	447,000	1455	125	D	W4DR	206,664	802	109	D	W0AIH	338,232	1609	102	D	N15T	166,240	1013	80	D	KG7H	115,784	696	82	D
W2GD	443,300	1577	124	D	N3UA	199,842	707	114	D	W9IU	265,776	1324	98	D	K0RC	157,358	953	82	D	KH6LC	112,000	549	80	D



Single Operator, QRP

W0GJ	97,881
K9NW	86,691
N8BB	73,584
W3TS	66,856
N0UR	66,688
WX7G	54,924
N7IR	52,895
N1BUG	49,662
W4TMR	49,434
W7JI	47,192

Single Operator, Low Power

N2WN	213,072
K9IG	207,270
VE3NE	190,538
KB7Q	187,912
WA4PGM	177,644
K0DI	177,633
N1UR	168,432
K1EP	168,432
W0UO	159,375
AC0W	147,120

Single Operator, High Power

K1DG	573,780
K3ZM	565,370
K1LZ	545,024
K9DX	526,320
VE3EJ	481,203
W4MYA	479,875
W1UE	479,125
K1ZZ	436,158
VE3EY	407,480
K1LT	386,631

Multi-operator

KC1XX	570,112
WE3C	510,245
WB9Z	482,306
K3WW	461,264
NO2R	447,000
W2GD	443,300
K5ZG	442,062
N1LN	422,520
W2FU	421,776
N3KS	402,456

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	7,711,153	60
Potomac Valley Radio Club	6,154,139	73
Society of Midwest Contesters	5,003,334	76
Minnesota Wireless Assn	3,172,424	57
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	3,838,297	32
Contest Club Ontario	2,743,694	32
Tennessee Contest Group	2,091,975	33
Mad River Radio Club	1,730,265	20
Northern California Contest	1,588,103	48
Florida Contest Group	1,219,221	14
Alabama Contest Group	1,071,655	14
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	958,802	10
South East Contest Club	941,314	14
North Texas Contest Club	698,976	9
Western New York DX Assn	625,357	8
Hudson Valley Contesters	524,705	10
Central Texas DX and Contest	490,400	5
Contest Club Du Quebec	489,003	9
Central Arizona DX Assn	414,698	11
Southern California Contest	324,476	12
Willamette Valley DX Club	285,564	4
Carolina DX Assn	284,217	4
North Coast Contesters	283,191	4
Kentucky Contest Group	239,673	4
Louisiana Contest Club	224,588	3
Utah DX Assn	171,850	3
Order of Boiled Owls	133,067	3
Oklahoma DX Assn	126,602	4
Western Washington DX Club	122,323	8
CTRI Contest Group	86,103	6
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	76,016	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	1,004,341	8
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	367,830	6
Northern Rockies DX Association	351,809	4
Spokane DX Association	179,752	5
Low Country Contest Club	165,429	5
New Mexico Big River	141,487	4
Maritime Contest Club	134,220	7
Sterling Park ARC	123,942	3
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	123,800	3
West Park Radiops	106,263	4

dorm room..." reminisced Doug, K1DG. His renewed enthusiasm for Top Band resulted in the top spot in the High Power category from his Long Island, Maine vacation home, where proximity to salt water and a clear path toward Europe certainly helped his score.

The remainder of the High Power top finishers are a real "Who's Who" of 160 meter operators, exemplifying the value of experience on this unique band and of assembling effective stations. The East Coast took the first three positions, with Peter, K3ZM, and Krassy, K1LZ, finishing 2nd and 3rd from VA and EMA, respectively. Fourth place finisher

John, K9DX, in IL is the farthest west of the Top Ten group, and his 1822 QSOs easily topped all competitors in this category.

Single Operator, Low Power and QRP

Working DX is a bit more difficult in the Low Power and QRP categories, so the number of QSOs and multipliers have a bigger effect on scoring, compared to High Power. With the stronger emphasis on domestic QSOs, the top finishers typically have a wide geographical spread. Every Low Power station on the Top Ten is from a different section, reaching from north in VT to TX in the south, from as far west as MT to VA in the east.

At the top is Julius, N2WN, in TN. He notes that contesting is certainly fun, but "What really makes a difference, for me, is the relationship I have with others who play in the same events and categories." Like many hams, Julius uses e-mail as well as radio to stay in touch, trading notes on operating and antennas. Other top Low Power finishers include Greg, K9IG, and Lali, VE3NE, who captured the 2nd and 3rd place spots from IN and VE3, while Gene, KB7Q, earned a 4th place finish from MT.

The band is open to more stories, comments, and photos in the expanded Web version of this article at www.arrl.org/contests/results.

At the top of the QRP category is Glenn, W0GJ, in MN, followed by Mike, K9NW, who operated from IN. Although a central location seems to be an advantage for QRP competition, there were excellent performances in the west, with David, WX7G, taking 6th place with his portable operation at the Great Salt Lake in UT, followed closely by Gary, N7IR, of AZ in the 7th position.

Club Competition

Contest clubs are important sources of encouragement and assistance that can really make a difference in the success of members who are new to the band, or have limited space for antennas.

This year, four clubs had enough entries to qualify for the Unlimited category. Two big eastern clubs topped the results, with the Yankee Clipper Contest Club capturing the gavel by amassing more than 7.7 million points. The Potomac Valley Radio Club earned the 2nd spot, with the Society of Midwest Contesters finishing 3rd with the highest participation (76 entries).

In the Medium category, the Frankford Radio Club's 32 entries totaled 3.8 million points to reach the top position. Reaching the 2nd spot is the active and enthusiastic Contest

Division Leaders by Category

A= Single Operator, QRP B= Single Operator, Low Power C = Single Operator, High Power D = Multi-operator

Single Op QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	66,856	A
Central	K9NW	86,691	A
Dakota	W0GJ	97,881	A
Delta	KW4JS	12,560	A
Great Lakes	N8BB	73,584	A
Hudson	KR2Q	23,130	A
Midwest	W7JI	47,192	A
New England	N1BUG	49,662	A
Northwestern	KX7L	4,420	A
Pacific	K6EI	16,092	A
Roanoke	W4TMR	49,434	A
Rocky Mountain	WX7G	54,924	A
Southeastern	N4AX	16,611	A
Southwestern	N7IR	52,895	A
West Gulf	W5ESE	6,592	A
Canada	VE7V	17,300	A

Single Op Low Power

Atlantic	K2ZR	117,238	B
Central	K9IG	207,270	B
Dakota	AC0W	147,120	B
Delta	N2WN	213,072	B
Great Lakes	K4FT	142,236	B
Hudson	K2UF	75,348	B
Midwest	K0DI	177,633	B
New England	K1EP	168,432	B
Northwestern	KB7Q	187,912	B
Pacific	NT6K	105,612	B
Roanoke	WA4PGM	177,644	B
Rocky Mountain	AC0DS	107,569	B
Southeastern	W4AA	100,464	B
Southwestern	W7RH	115,619	B
West Gulf	W0UO	159,375	B
Canada	VE3NE	190,538	B

Single Op High Power

Atlantic	W3BGN	383,933	C
Central	K9DX	526,320	C
Dakota	W0SD	350,168	C
(W0DB, op)			
Delta	N5RR	325,038	C
Great Lakes	K1LT	386,631	C
Hudson	N2ED	113,100	C
Midwest	N0TT	240,640	C
New England	K1DG	573,780	C
Northwestern	N6TR	235,405	C
Pacific	W7RN	169,420	C
(W6EU, op)			
Roanoke	K3ZM	565,370	C
Rocky Mountain	W0UA	255,668	C
Southeastern	K4TD	300,991	C
Southwestern	KC7V	148,764	C
West Gulf	K5NA	373,520	C
Canada	VE3EJ	481,203	C

Multi-operator

Atlantic	WE3C	510,245	D
Central	WB9Z	482,306	D
Dakota	KD0S	171,108	D
Delta	K5FMC	189,371	D
Great Lakes	K5ZG	442,062	D
Hudson	NO2R	447,000	D
Midwest	N0NI	348,140	D
New England	KC1XX	570,112	D
Northwestern	K7OX	129,444	D
Pacific	N6RO	131,064	D
Roanoke	N1LN	422,520	D
Rocky Mountain	N15T	166,240	D
Southeastern	N4PN	266,832	D
Southwestern	N7DD	166,584	D
West Gulf	AD5VJ	28,446	D
Canada	VY2/N3DXX	344,971	D

Club Ontario, while the Tennessee Contest Group made it into the 3rd position.

At the top of the Local category was the Central Virginia Contest Club, with eight entries and more than a million total points.

Summary

The 160 meter band remains a fascinating part of the amateur spectrum! It can be frustrating when conditions are poor or noise is high, and exhilarating when DX is plentiful and there is lots of activity. The 2008 ARRL 160 Meter Contest definitely generated lots of activity, with 507 Low Power entries, 448 High Power entries, 249 Multi-Operator entries and 77 QRP entries. And I'll bet most of them are already planning for the 2009 contest December 4-6!