

2009 ARRL DX Phone Results

The Buzz is Back!

H. Ward Silver, N0AX
n0ax@arri.org

If you go fishing, sooner or later, no matter how many days in a row you've come home with a minnow-sized catch, the waters will provide a bounty. The weekend of March 7 and 8 was one of those unexpected radio bounties!

Who's Out There?

By any standards you care to use, this was a banner year!

DX QSOs with US-VE: 518,421 — up by 27%

US-VE QSOs with DX: 414,323 — up by 40%

Not only were more QSOs reported, but a higher fraction of US-VE QSOs were submitted to the log-checkers: 80% this year compared to 72% in 2008.

US-VE logs: 1491, up by 20%

DX logs: 1177, up by 45%

That's a total of 2568 logs, up by a whopping 25% in a single year!

The 6Y1V Multi-Two team logged 3805 unique US-VE calls on 20 meters, an increase of 28% over last year. Also on 20 meters, the W3LPL Multi-Multi team logged 2446 DX calls and that's a 35% increase!

The Bands Played On

The bands got a shot in the arm from the quiet conditions this year — much better on Saturday ($A_p = 1$, avg $K = 0.3$) and about the same on Sunday ($A_p = 8$, avg $K = 2.6$) than last year. That helps in two ways; first, the band openings are generally longer and stronger, and second, having a good first day keeps the interest level up for Sunday.

What was actually experienced this season was an ionospheric antipasto of conditions and abilities. Down on 160 and 80 meters, the low-banders took advantage of low D and E-layer absorption to rack up a few records as shown. For the middle frequencies of 40 and 20, propagation was classic F-layer, worldwide skip. Moving up, the propagation changed to very low-angle propagation on 15 meters, such as chordal hops and transequatorial modes. At the top of the HF spectrum, 10 meters took on VHF-like characteristics with sporadic-E (E_s) pro-

New US-VE Records for 2009

Category	Call District	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SO-Assisted	VE	VY2TT (op K6LA)	3,013,644	2,975,535	1996
SO-20	All	KQ2M	1,012,368	933,525	2004
SO-40	9 th	WB9Z	123,024	106,677	1991
SO-160	2 nd	W2MF	22,692	21,960	1985

New DX Records for 2009

Category	Continent	Call	New Record	Old Record	Year Set
SO-20	EU	CU2A (OH8NC, op)	649,650	567,180	1992
SO-20	AN	R1ANC	39,960	—	—
SO-40	All	KH7XS (K4XS, op)	438,480	250,101	1997
SO-80	EU	CU2X (OH2BH, op)	367,560	208,008	2007
SO-160	EU	F6CTT	62,034	39,516	1993
SO-160	AF	AO8A (EA8AH, op)	50,544	8,100	1997
MM	SA	PJ2T	8,113,770	3,533,928	1997

viding spot openings at southern latitudes. It's not often that one weekend serves up such a smorgasbord for us to sample!

Write-up Notes and Features:

Look to the online extended version of these results (www.arri.org/contests/results) for the following features:

- Regional analysis for every Region and Continent.
- A set of Top Ten call signs since 2002 is available as a downloadable PDF file.
- Changes in QSOs and multipliers as a percentage of the 2002 totals are shown.
- DX categories are being tracked from year to year.
- A new accuracy plot displays score reduction against validated QSOs.
- Soapbox is presented from all electronic logs.

Records

Record scores at the bottom of the cycle? Zounds! Four in North America and six elsewhere. KQ2M claimed two new 20 Meter, Single-Band records for *all* of US-VE in the CW and SSB weekends. Offshore, KH7XS set a thumping new Single-Band, 40 Meter World record! PJ2T now owns the Multi-Multi record for South America, as well. Four new European single-band records were set as CU2A (OH8NC, op) and CU2X (OH2BH, op) cleaned up on 20 and 80 meters. 160 meter records got clobbered by EA8AH from the Canary Islands, and by F6CTT in France.

K6LA set a new Canadian record in Single-Op, Assisted as VY2TT. WB9Z broke his old Single-Band 40 Meter record from 1991 and on 160 meters W2MF broke the Single 160 record from 1985, the oldest

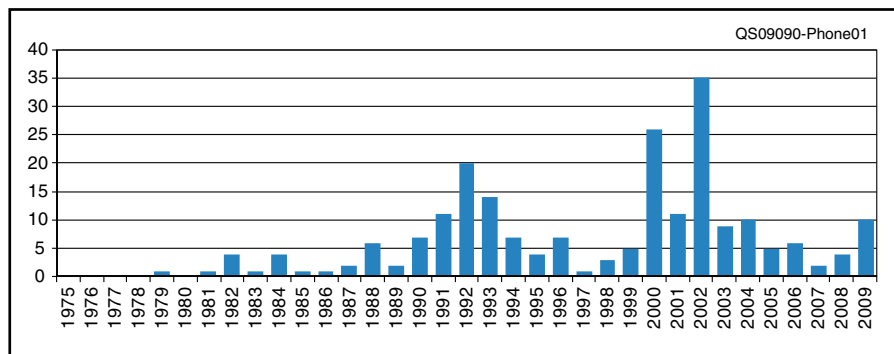


Figure 1 — Records set by year

record broken. Figure 1 shows the variation in record-setting for all existing records.

Caveats

Spotting network connections (aka “packet”) are nearly ubiquitous in the con-tester’s shack. In fact, many logging software programs are configured to connect by default. If you receive *any* information from the spotting network about the operation of another contest competitor, you *must* submit your entry in the Single-Operator, Assisted category.

Remote stations are popping up every-where along with the software and Internet bandwidth to support effective remote operation. Know the rules for remote operating: You must identify properly based on the location from which you transmit, you must be fully licensed to transmit from that location and have full permission from the station owner, and all receiving and transmitting antennas must be located at a single site.

US and VE Overview

There was a roughly 50% increase in the winning scores across the board. In many categories, the two or three leading scores were all greater than the 2008 top score! The Web version of the results shows how the Single-Operator entries were distributed across the categories.

This year was very good for the LP operators from 160 through 20 meters, especially for Single-Op, Low-Power operators. You can see the effect of the superb low-band conditions by the increase in the number of 80 meter and 40 meter Single-Band logs shown in Figure 2. Even with the excellent 20 meter conditions, some operators chose to drop down a band or two. The higher

BILL SMITH, W9VA



Jim, K9PPY (right) is running while Bill, W9VA (left) hunts (and hunts) for the elusive 10 meter opening at PSØF. They managed 11 QSOs and 7 multipliers on 10 meters.

40 meter and 80 meter log submissions balance the drop in 20 meter logs.

When conditions are decent, it might be the QRP stations that reap the greatest reward. NØKE made his first appearance in the QRP Top Ten and took home the top spot from Colorado. VA3DF continues his five-year run in the Top Ten, placing 2nd this year with 72 countries on 20 meters alone, ahead of 2007 category winner N1TM, making his 7th straight Top Ten appearance in third this year. Other new faces in the Top Ten include NN7SS (op K6UFO in WWA), N4IJ (OK), and WF4U (UT). NØUR returns to the Top Ten for the first time since 2002. The West was surprisingly strong this year with six of the ten table settings, including W6QU (op W8QZU, SDG) and KA5PVB (WTX). The north-central region wasn’t left out as KT8K (MI) and NØUR (MN) filled out the roster.

Single-Op, Low-Power is always a hotly contested category, regardless of conditions, placing a premium on geography. While two Texans, N5AW (NTX, 4th) and WD5K

(STX, 7th), corralled the middle of the Top Ten, it was N1UR (VT) claiming the top spot for the third time in four years — and he took off last year! WD5K was as far west as the Top Ten went, with no further representation from West until the 26th spot! N1PGA (WMA, 6th last year) and K2PS (SNJ, 7th last year) made a run and duked it out for 2nd and 3rd place, but well off the N1UR pace. N4TZ (IN) anchored the middle — his home away from home for six out of the last eight contests. N1SV (EMA) follows, returning to the Top Ten after a four-year absence. W1NT (WMA) is a new call in the Top Ten at eighth, prevailing in a very tight three-way race over regular Top-Tenners N4XL (SC) and W3LL (MDC) in 9th and 10th.

High-Power winner VY2ZM (MAR, op K1ZM) looks to be mighty hard to beat. Repeating the results of his previous Top Ten appearance in 2002, KM3T operated K5ZD to a solid second-place finish. AA1K (DE) had his best finish yet, appearing in the Top Ten every year since 2002 when I started writing up the results — maybe with a few sunspots? Fellow Canadians VO1MP (NL) and Mr New Prefix VE3AT operating VC3A tied up the third and fourth spots: VO1MP’s fourth straight Top Ten appearance and VE3AT’s sixth! Westerner K3CR (op LZ4AX) retained 6th place on the list from WPA and it’s nice to see K3ZO following him after a three-year absence. Newcomers KK1L (VT), W3GQ (NC) and VY2SS close out the list this year.

Single-Op, Assisted winner W2RE’s (ENY) strategy clearly favored running and the 400+ QSO margin was enough to overcome the nearly 40 additional multipliers in the log of 2nd place NN3W (at the N3HBX station in MDC). There was a real horse-race for 2nd and 3rd, with VY2TT (op K6LA) setting a new Canadian record, but falling short of NN3W by the slimmest of totals. And then there is the annual run for the EPA roses between K3WW and AA3B. Each of these fellows has made the SOA Top Ten in seven out of the last eight years with K3WW prevailing in every head-to-head competition, but AA3B came as close as he ever has this year — stay tuned to see if AA3B will prevail in 2010! A bit farther west, there was a tight race as VA3DX grabbed 7th just ahead of N8TR (OH), before the Top Ten swung back east to K2PLF (ENY) and closed with N3AD (EPA).

US-VE Single-Band

This year there was a big surge of interest in single-band entries; 235 logs were submitted and that is an increase of nearly 80 over 2008’s 154 — up 50%! Figure 2 shows that 20 meter logs made up a lower fraction of the total due to increased interest in 40 meters and 80 meters. Even 15 meters grabbed a bit more of the pie. This is a very healthy trend!

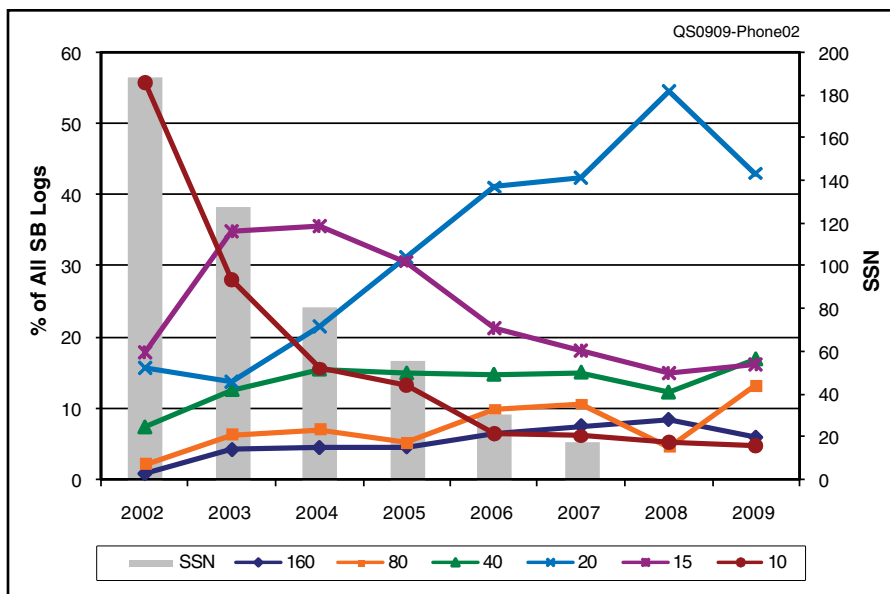


Figure 2 — Single-band US-VE logs, 2002-2008. SSN is an abbreviation for smoothed sunspot number.



W/VE

Single Operator High Power

VY2ZM	4,591,875
(K1ZIM, op)	
K5ZD	3,212,040
(KM3T, op)	
AA1K	2,398,200
VO1MP	2,337,300
VC3A	2,244,480
(VE3AT, op)	
K3CR	2,116,500
(LZ4AX, op)	
K3ZO	1,777,554
KK1L	1,080,288
W3GQ	839,700
VY2SS	741,474

Single Operator Low Power

N1UR	1,365,372
N1PGA	882,900
K2PS	787,845
N5AW	730,296
N4TZ	688,170
N1SV	579,870
WD5K	453,495
W1NT	394,935
N4XL	391,152
W3LL	381,843

Single Operator QRP

N0KE	155,832
VA3DF	130,524
N1TM	120,960
W6QU	66,600
(W8QZA, op)	
NN7SS	63,450
(K6UFO, op)	
N4IJ	48,672
WF4U	45,630
KT8K	23,232
KA5PVB	22,656
N0UR	16,740

Single Operator 160 Meters

W2MF	22,692
W1NA	22,509
K5RX	9,384
KK4SI	8,496
N2WN	7,434
K1HAP	6,708
W3GH	6,174
VE3CUI	972
W7DR	912
VE2DWA	816

Single Operator 80 Meters

KU2M	87,780
AA4MM	64,575
N0NI	51,408
KM1R	42,975
AA4V	39,951
N3YD	31,968
N8OO	27,900
NJ1H	27,783
K0KT	21,594
W2/E78WWW	19,320

Single Operator 40 Meters

WB9Z	123,024
W6YI	99,960
WU2X	97,929
K4AB	61,677
W6PU	41,730
WD0BGZ	37,233
K8DJC	32,670
AC5O	32,640
VE6JY	29,988
AC8Y	27,783

Single Operator 20 Meters

KQ2M	1,012,368
K2XA	527,022
VE3XN	364,746
W8ZN	352,800
W0EWD	291,375
W1NR	216,039
VE5ZX	214,524
N7AT	189,000
(K8IA, op)	
W9EXY	188,574
K6HNZ	174,558

Single Operator 15 Meters

K4EA	93,912
K5TR	75,816
(WM5R, op)	
N4PN	65,649
N4BP	45,180
K9OM	44,280
KC7V	22,815
WA2AOG	15,750
KC6R	14,514
N2CU	14,445
K7BG	13,755

Single Operator 10 Meters

W5PR	9,867
NA4CW	3,840
K4WI	1,890
K4MF	1,680
W7ISG	1,221
W6GMT	1,023
K4JRB	1,014
NN1N	90
ND6S	63
W8REG	18
WA0FQK	18

Single Operator Assisted

W2RE	3,272,328
NN3W	3,060,288
(@ N3HBX)	
VY2T1	3,013,644
(K6LA, op)	
K3WW	2,305,422
AA3B	1,975,446
K3PP	1,528,740
VA3DX	1,436,400
N8TR	1,409,628
K2PLF	1,358,775
N3AD	1,251,747

Multioperator Single Transmitter

K1LZ	3,943,164
W3BGN	3,111,828
W1QA	2,722,830
N1FD	1,489,176
K1KI	1,326,234
W6WB	1,010,625
KD9ST	908,088
W2ZQ	809,784
VE3RM	765,348
W2XL	690,108

Multioperator Two Transmitters

WE3C	6,019,992
N3RS	4,507,461
W4RM	3,431,106
K8AZ	2,759,328
NR4M	2,565,171
KB1H	2,518,431
NE3F	1,984,140
K0TV	1,793,412
W5WMMU	1,654,044
NK7U	1,312,464

Multioperator Single Transmitter

W3LPL	7,152,327
K3LR	6,718,464
W1FJ	4,387,500
K1RX	3,991,044
K1TTT	3,831,624
W3PP	2,457,369
N6BV	1,986,012
W0AIIH	1,857,600
N8RA	1,106,595
WX3B	384,846

Single-band entries are an excellent way to learn those unusual and marginal openings such as gray line and long path openings or even scatter modes on the higher bands.

Still somewhat anemic from the lack of solar UV, 10 meters is still a source of interesting propagation over any 48-hour period. Winner W5PR apparently soaked up whatever propagation happened to be available from STX because he doubled last year's winning score and handily outdistanced the rest of the crew. NA4CW (SFL) and K4WI (AL) traded places from last year's standings. This year, at least there were enough 10 meter logs to have a full Top Ten — keep the faith! We actually have a Top Eleven with W8REG and WA0FQK tied in the 10th spot.

There was more life in 15 meters as shown by K4EA's winning score from GA. QSOs were up by about 20% and multipliers by a third to near-DXCC levels — particularly welcome and it shows that it doesn't take much "extra" propagation to work some good DX at any time of the solar cycle. K5TR (operated by WM5R in STX) squeezed in between K4EA and N4PN, also in GA, to grab second. While there was obviously a lot of empty space on the band, there was still enough action to fatten those scores "considerable" over last year and give K7BG the first rung of the ladder from up north in MT.

Last year's 20 Meter winner, K2XA (ENY), bulked up both his QSOs and multipliers, but it wasn't nearly enough to withstand the charge of category winner and record-setter KQ2M (CT). The Top Ten was populated with entries from all across the US and Canada, a reflection of the great conditions on the "Queen of the Bands." Third through 5th places marched across the continent to the southwest — VE3XN, W8ZN (OH) and W0EWD (IA) — before returning to W1NR in EMA. VE5ZX turned in a nice score from northerly Saskatchewan. K8IA operating at N7AT in 8th and K6NHZ in 10th were the most westerly scores. W9EXY almost caught N7AT from IL.

The game has changed on 40 meters with the opening of 7.100-7.200 MHz to many ITU Region 1 amateurs. WB9Z (IL) took full advantage to push his 1991 record up a notch or two and wriggle by last year's winner W6YI (SDG). 3rd place WU2X (ENY) would have been last year's winner! K4AB (AL) in 4th came in ahead of westerners W6PU (NM) and WD0BGZ (CO). A photo-finish between K8DJC (OH) and AC5O (LA) for 7th and 8th were followed by VE6JY from Alberta and AC8Y on the East Coast in VA. It is good to see top scores from all over the continent.

Keeping up with the big score trend, KU2M (NNJ) tripled last year's 80 meter winning score that would have just squeaked into the box in 8th place this year! N0NI finished just behind 2nd-place AA4MM (NFL), almost



DX

Single Operator High Power

P49Y	5,771,094
KH7X	4,672,764
(KH6ND, op)	
KP2M	4,390,173
(N2TK, op)	
FS5KA	4,327,599
(W1SJ, op)	
TO5A	3,541,359
(NH7A, op)	
CT1ILT	1,704,144
OA4SS	1,451,313
HP1WW	1,123,842
KH6FI	1,123,785
OX2A	914,007

Single Operator Low Power

P40A	5,558,235
(K9A, op)	
T15N	3,691,881
(W5AJ, op)	
HI3TEJ	2,756,160
J88DR	2,510,757
HK6P	1,265,376
8P6EX	1,102,143
PY1NX	1,032,102
J7Y	1,022,616
(K1LI, op)	
KH6/AC0W	687,675
PW2P	654,684
(PY2XAT, op)	

Single Operator QRP

F5BEG	41,160
JR4DAH	10,260
DL4VCG	6,561
JH1APZ	5,913
MM3XXW	4,032
YO3JW	1,701
VK4ATH	1,680
OK1DVM	684
I2FME	660
I5KAP	627

Single Operator 160 Meters

ZF2AH	126,150
KV4FZ	62,556
F6CTT	62,034
AO8A	50,544
(EA8AH, op)	
E77DX	39,150
CU2AF	29,412
SN3R	23,940
(SP6HEQ, op)	
LN9Z	17,442
(LA5KO, op)	
S56P	7,920
EA1DVY	3,657

Single Operator 80 Meters

CU2X	367,560
(OH2BH, op)	
GM3PPG	157,740
(G4BYB, op)	
YW4V	113,031
HG3M	112,896
(HA3MY, op)	
EI7M	110,313
SP3GEM	100,452
SN7Q	87,780
YV5MSG	47,376
WP4I	40,770
(WP3C, op)	
IZ4NIC	39,429

Single Operator 40 Meters

KH7XS	438,480
(K4XS, op)	
KP4KE	297,711
GW7X	254,664
(GW4BLE, op)	
S53F	238,950
YW5W	218,022
(YV5TX, op)	
ZL3A	215,640
(ZM3A, op)	
HQ9R	203,832
(WQ7R, op)	
OM3PC	175,896
E70T	151,956
F5BZB	137,376

Single Operator 20 Meters

CU2A	649,650
(OH8NC, op)	
TM9R	458,964
(F5FLN, op)	
S50K	409,005
E76C	406,080
E71A	340,560
NL7V	315,720
IR1R	304,878
(IK1HJS, op)	
TG9ANF	279,624
WP4EDD	275,040
CT7A	261,540
(CT1IUA, op)	

Single Operator 15 Meters

ZX5J	488,166
(PP5JR, op)	
LU2QC	482,298
AY5F	387,720
LT0H	356,760
(LU3HY, op)	
PY2LSM	340,194
LS1D	334,260
(LW9EOC, op)	
AY4D	320,193
(LU4DX, op)	
PY1KN	249,039
KH7Y	142,137
PY6HD	96,432

Single Operator 10 Meters

LU1HF	113,337
LU9DAG	50,148
LR2F	27,948
(LU2FA, op)	
PY2MTS	26,136
ZV2C	20,097
(PY2CX, op)	
CA6BMF	13,671
PY2LEP	12,180
LT0D	10,368
(LU6DU, op)	
HP1RIS	3,192
PP5JN	2,856

Single Operator Assisted

PJ4G	5,663,196
(K2NG, op)	
LT1F	2,779,923
(L1FAM, op)	
ZX2B	1,876,980
(PY2MNL, op)	
ZP0R	1,166,778
(ZP5AZL, op)	
EE7E	887,757
(EA7RU, op)	
LQ0F	832,608
(LU5FF, op)	
YR9P	640,068
(YO9HP, op)	
KL7FH	625,356
(KL7Z, op)	
KP2BH	568,980
WP4SK	520,020

Multioperator Single Transmitter

V26F	5,351,616
VP5H	5,027,778
4B2S	4,855,680
H3K	4,634,100
PS0F	3,473,388
CT9L	2,807,028
TO2T	2,777,724
C6ANM	2,720,340
VP9I	2,632,032
T46G	2,237,079

Multioperator Two Transmitters

6Y1V	9,015,138
TM6M	3,828,285
T18M	3,621,102
ZY7C	3,591,567
V48M	3,322,872
PS2T	1,692,552
JA1YPA	618,240
KP3VA	461,910
OK7K	316,899
EA3EJ	255,150

Multioperator Multi Transmitter

PJ2T	8,113,770
KL7RA	4,473,588
CS2C	3,777,996
9A1A	2,579,355
HG1S	1,262,196
SO8A	951,528
RW2F	841,428
JA3YBK	614,460

setting a new 10th-district record. 4th-place KM1R's (CT) held off AA4V (SC) and N3YD (WPA). N800 with a big score from south-central LA just nipped NJ1H (NH) and KØKT (IA). And how would you like to try to push the call sign W2/E78WW through the QRN on 75 meters?

Claiming the Top Spot on Top Band this year, W2MF (SNJ) moved up from 2nd-place last year with 50% more QSOs and a score to match, setting a new 2nd-district record! New Englander W1NA (EMA) took MF's spot in second, while K5RX held fast with a repeat of last year's 3rd-place finish just ahead of KK4SI (NFL). The quiet conditions spread the wealth around as N2WN appears in the box from TN before K1HAP (NH), W3GH (WPA), and VE3CUI restored normalcy. But zut alors! W7DR adds SV in 9th place from all the way out west before VE2DWA closes out the Top Ten.

Multioperator

Multioperator, Single-Transmitter entries, once nearly ¾ of all MO logs, now only make up half. 2009 brought a new call to the MS mix as K1LZ's active and growing team appeared on top of the list from EMA followed by 2007 winner W3BGN returning to the MS mix. W1QA made it a three-peat in third. N1FD moved up five spots this year — that hard work paid off — followed by K1KI (CT) and last year's 6th-place W6WB (EB) repeating as the West Coast representative in the category. KD9ST (IL) is the last western station in the list, followed by W2ZQ (SNJ), VE3RM, and W2XL (ENY) in 8th through 10th places.

"Multi-Two" continues to accumulate "market share" with a full third of the multioperator entries, its highest ever. A repeat in the top spot, WE3C (EPA) is going strong after five years of Top Ten finishes, all at third place or higher. N3RS (EPA) also repeats in second place for the third straight year. Another consistent presence in the Top Ten box, the W4RM (VA) team placed third, followed by a new call, K8AZ (OH). Fifth place went to NR4M (VA) who edged KB1H (CT) and NE3F (EPA). Farther on down the list, KØTV (NH) made it six straight years of MS Top Ten, W5WMU (LA) entered as a team this year, and NK7U (OR) keeps the West Coast in the hunt with an entry from the relocated and rebuilding station.

After four years of finishing second to K3LR (WPA), W3LPL's MDC team retook the top spot in the Multi-Multi high roller's derby for the first time since 2002! Seven of

Continental Leaders By Category

Continent/Class	Call	Score
Africa		
Single Operator High Power	EABCDI	619,518
Single Operator Low Power	V51YJ	96,363
Single Operator 160 Meters	AO8A (EA8AH, op)	50,544
Single Operator 40 Meters	ZS4JAN	36
Single Operator 20 Meters	J5UAP	144,078
Single Operator 15 Meters	3V8SS	936
Single Operator Assisted	EABZBH	28,992
Multioperator Single Transmitter	CT9L	2,807,028
Antarctica		
Single Operator 20 Meters	R1ANC	39,960
Asia		
Single Operator High Power	JAØJHA	910,767
Single Operator Low Power	JH4UYB	176,490
Single Operator QRP	JR4DAH	10,260
Single Operator 80 Meters	JF2IWL	11,625
Single Operator 40 Meters	UAØCM	3,696
Single Operator 20 Meters	JA7FTF	163,548
Single Operator 15 Meters	JJ2YAF (JA1KSO, op)	7,308
Single Operator Assisted	JF2QNM	103,587
Multioperator Single Transmitter	JAØQNJ	311,817
Multioperator Two Transmitters	JA1YPA	618,240
Multioperator Multi Transmitter	JA3YBK	614,460
Europe		
Single Operator High Power	CT1ILT	1,704,144
Single Operator Low Power	I2ZFOS	320,229
Single Operator QRP	F5BEG	41,160
Single Operator 160 Meters	F6CTT	62,034
Single Operator 80 Meters	CU2X (OH2BH, op)	367,560
Single Operator 40 Meters	GW7X (GW4BLE, op)	254,664
Single Operator 20 Meters	CU2A (OH8NC, op)	649,650
Single Operator 15 Meters	E730	2,754
Single Operator Assisted	EET7E (EA7RU, op)	887,757
Multioperator Single Transmitter	IR4T	1,866,600
Multioperator Two Transmitters	TM6M	3,828,285
Multioperator Multi Transmitter	CS2C	3,777,996
North America		
Single Operator High Power	KP2M (N2TK, op)	4,390,173
Single Operator Low Power	TI5N (W5AJ, op)	3,691,881
Single Operator 160 Meters	ZF2AH	126,150
Single Operator 80 Meters	WP4I (WP3C, op)	40,770
Single Operator 40 Meters	KP4KE	297,711
Single Operator 20 Meters	NL7V	315,720
Single Operator 15 Meters	CM8WAL	27
Single Operator 10 Meters	HP1RIS	3,192
Single Operator Assisted	KL7FH (KL7Z, op)	625,356
Multioperator Single Transmitter	V26F	5,351,616
Multioperator Two Transmitters	6Y1V	9,015,138
Multioperator Multi Transmitter	KL7RA	4,473,588
Oceania		
Single Operator High Power	KH7X (KH6ND, op)	4,672,764
Single Operator Low Power	KH6/AC0W	687,675
Single Operator QRP	VK4ATH	1,680
Single Operator 40 Meters	KH7XS (K4XS, op)	438,480
Single Operator 20 Meters	AH7C	152,130
Single Operator 15 Meters	KH7Y	142,137
Multioperator Single Transmitter	VK6ANC	206,064
South America		
Single Operator High Power	P49Y	5,771,094
Single Operator Low Power	P40A (KK9A, op)	5,558,235
Single Operator 160 Meters	LU2DVI	90
Single Operator 80 Meters	YW4V	113,031
Single Operator 40 Meters	YW5W (YV5TX, op)	218,022
Single Operator 20 Meters	LU1DK	248,940
Single Operator 15 Meters	ZX5J (PP5JR, op)	488,166
Single Operator 10 Meters	LU1HF	113,337
Single Operator Assisted	PJ4G (K2NG, op)	5,663,196
Multioperator Single Transmitter	PSØF	3,473,388
Multioperator Two Transmitters	ZY7C	3,591,567
Multioperator Multi Transmitter	PJ2T	8,113,770

this year's Top Ten stations have "made the box" four or more times since 2002, including the 2009 inductee to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, WØAIH (WI — 8th). W1FJ (EMA) in 4th prevailed over K1RX (NH) who was locked in a tough race with K1TTT (WMA), followed by W3PP (DE). There are also three new call signs in the MM Top Ten this year; N6BV (EB — 7th), N8RA (CT — 9th), and WX3B (MDC — 10th).

Affiliated Club Competition

In the Unlimited Club category, it was the Yankee Clipper Contest Club reclaiming the

top spot, breaking the 200-log barrier and zooming to a decisive victory! Frankford Radio Club and Potomac Valley Radio Club were 2nd and 3rd. Adding 37 logs, the Society of Midwest Contesters moved up to 4th place and serving notice that they might be challenging for the Sweepstakes gavel again this year, too. That's how to do it — get everybody you can on the air and sending in their logs!

Even with fewer logs in 2009, the North Coast Contesters held off the howling mob to stay atop the Medium Club mountain. They were followed by the upwardly-mobile Mad River Radio Club (4th to 2nd) and the Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers (5th to 3rd).

A new Local category club, the Southeastern Ohio DX Association, surged to the top and claimed the gavel with 7 big entries averaging nearly 3 Mpts each! In 2nd and 3rd are two other clubs that weren't on the 2008 radar — the Kansas City DX Club and the Northeast Wisconsin DX Association. It goes to show that a Local club can form (or re-form) quickly and make a run at a national title.

DX Overview

The most appropriate remark to make from the DX point of view is, "Wow!" With 1177 logs submitted — a 45% increase over 2008 — and QSOs way up everywhere you look, the contest had to be even more fun from outside the US-VE boundary. It's all about rate and volume of QSOs! 62 multipliers was the maximum number worked by any DX station this year — 63 is the maximum possible.

In second place last year, F5BEG put together a very strong win in the SOAB-QRP category, adding nearly 50% to his score — his best, having placed in the Top Ten every year since 2002. Having made the Top Ten for seven of the last eight years, JR4DAH moved up from sixth to second — it's always a struggle for Asian stations to place highly in the ARRL DX contests, so this is a nice finish, as for countryman JH1APZ in 4th. A new call in the DX QRP Top Ten, DL4VCG made a debut appearance in third. The remaining six calls — MM3XXW, YO3JW, VK4ATH, OK1DVM, IZ2FME, and I5KAP — are all new to the QRP Top Ten; welcome! Unlike the LP and HP categories, Europe and Asia do quite well in QRP.

The Low-Power Top Ten was dominated by stations sprinkled around the Caribbean — seven out of the top eight spots. A tip of the author's cap to the winner,

WVE Region Leaders

Tables list call sign, score, and power (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power).

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)

VY2ZM	4,591,875	C
(K1ZM, op)		
K5ZD	3,212,040	C
(KM3T, op)		
AA1K	2,398,200	C
VO1MP	2,337,300	C
K3CR	2,116,500	C
(LZ4AX, op)		
N1UR	1,365,372	B
N1PGA	882,900	B
K2PS	787,845	B
N1SV	579,870	B
W1NT	394,935	B
N1TM	120,960	A
VE9QRP	15,264	A
K3TW	11,055	A
N1URA	5,814	A
WB7OCV	4,488	A

Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)

W3GQ	839,700	C
K5RQ	663,369	C
K4YYL	659,634	C
N4POX	426,114	C
W4KW	378,882	C
N4XL	391,152	B
NA4K	278,460	B
WB4JFS	249,480	B
AB4GG	172,617	B
N4IG	162,936	B
KG4JGQ	16,683	A
WB5NMZ	4,464	A

Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section)

VC3A	2,244,480	C
(VE3AT, op)		
K9BGL	655,557	C
VE3KZ	434,655	C
K8FL	231,636	C
K2UR	210,210	C
N4TZ	688,170	B
VA3YP	345,990	B
KD9MS	289,008	B
VE3TW	187,458	B
WR4F	172,210	B
VA3DF	130,524	A
KT8K	23,232	A
K9GY	1,440	A
AF9J	504	A

Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)

NN7ZZ	489,648	C
(N5LZ, op)		
K0RH	276,450	C
AD5XD	275,730	C
VE4EAR	253,368	C
K0DEQ	202,470	C
N5AW	730,296	B
WD5K	453,495	B
VE5SF	133,458	B
K0BJ	127,680	B
NT0F	122,265	B
N0KE	155,832	A
N4IJ	48,672	A
WF4U	45,630	A
KA5PVB	22,656	A
N0UR	16,740	A

West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)

N6AA	512,295	C
WA7LT	508,032	C
K5RR	498,624	C
VE6BBP	387,072	C
K6XX	346,368	C
K7JE	158,472	B
W7RV	122,958	B
AA6K	92,394	B
KE7NO	90,720	B
N6RV	89,748	B
W6QU	66,600	A
(W8QZA, op)		
NN7SS	63,450	A
(K6UFO, op)		
K6MI	1,350	A
VE6STP	126	A

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to announce the winners of a sponsored ARRL DX SSB plaque. The ARRL wishes to thank the plaque sponsors for their continued commitment to the ARRL Plaque Program. Without their support and dedication, the Plaque Program would not be possible.

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
World Single Operator High Power	North Jersey DX Association	P49Y
World Single Operator QRP	QRP-ARCI	F5BEG
World Multioperator Single Transmitter	Carl Cook, Al6V & Sue Cook, Al6YL	V26F
World Multioperator Unlimited	Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ	PJ2T
World 1.8 MHz	Fred Race, W8FR, In Memory of ZL2BT	ZF2AH
World 14 MHz	Don Wallace, W6AM, Memorial Award	F5BZB
World 21 MHz	Long Island DX Association	ZX5J (PP5JR, op)
World 28 MHz	North Shenandoah DX Association NS4DX	LU1HF
WVE Single Operator High Power	Frankford Radio Club	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)
WVE Single Operator Low Power	Dauberville DX Association	N1UR
WVE Single Operator QRP	Jeffrey Briggs, K1ZM	N0KE
WVE Single Operator Assisted	Pete Carter, K3VW Memorial	W2RE
WVE Multioperator Single Transmitter	Steve Adams, K4RF	K1LZ
WVE Multioperator Two Transmitter	John Rodgers, WE3C	WE3C
WVE Multioperator Unlimited Transmitter	Western New York DX Association	W3PL
WVE 28 MHz	Ralph Fontaine AF7DX	W5PR
WVE 3.5 MHz	Jeffrey Briggs, VY2ZM	KU2M
Asia Multioperator Single Transmitter	Yankee Clipper Contest Club	JA0QNJ
North America Multioperator Single Transmitter	Nick Lash, K9KLR	V26F
Oceania Single Operator High Power	W7EW / W7AT	KH7Y (KH6ND, op)
Japan Single Operator Low Power	Western Washington DX Club	JH4UYB
Great Lakes Division Single Operator	Northern Ohio DX Association	K8FL
New England Division Single Operator Low Power	CTRI Contest Group	N1UR

Un-sponsored plaques may be purchased by the plaque winner. If you wish to purchase an un-sponsored plaque or order a duplicate plaque, contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, at 860-594-0232 or by e-mail at kx9x@arrl.org. The cost for plaques is \$75 (includes shipping).

KK9A operating P40A as he has for a fifth straight year — to first place! The score of 5.55 Mpts would have placed a very close 2nd in the SOAB-HP category! W5AJ piloted TI5N to second place — his first Top Ten appearance since 2005. In third and cementing his WRTC-2010 credentials was HI3TEJ followed by J88DR (G3TBK, op) repeating his 2008 4th-place finish. Europe was shut out of the SOAB-LP Top Ten again — there was no EU representative last year, either — but IZ2FOS was close at 15th place. Ten places back was the top Asian LP score, JH4UYB, and another ten places below was the top African entry, V51YJ.

All five of the top spots in High-Power were traveling operators making a bit of fun for the folks back home while wrangling the pileups abroad. AE6Y made Aruba even

more radio-active this year, taking the top spot at P49Y and giving the island a double first-place finish for the first time since 2005 when W2GD and KK9A pulled it off. KH6ND returned to the KH6YY station for his first Single-Op win in this contest since 2004. N2TK repeated his 2008 third-place finish from KP2M. W1SJ piloted FS5KA back to the Top Ten after a 2006 third-place finish and NH7A returned to TO5A for a sixth-straight Top Ten finish. CT1ILT was the top European entry in this category — surprisingly hard to crack from across the Atlantic. Absent from the Top Ten since 2005, OA4SS is back this year from Lima, Peru. HP1WW and KH6FI almost fought to a draw in 8th and 9th place while one of the first Top Ten finishes by a Greenland station in recent memory was turned in

by OX2A. Just barely out of the Top Ten, JA0JHA leads all Asia HP entries in 11th place and EA8CDI was the top African entry in 13th position.

K2NG kept the southern Caribbean front and center from Curacao as first-place Single-Op, Assisted PJ4G outdistanced his South American competition. LT1F, ZX2B, ZP0R, and LQ0F formed a crowd in the midsection of the SOA Top Ten, as well, with EE7E squeezing into fifth-place. It took a great effort from YR9P to place 7th from the southern reaches of Eastern Europe. KL7Z signed KL7FH, as he placed eighth from Alaska — another sign of good conditions. The Top Ten was filled out by two island stations, KP2BH and WP4SK. JF2QNM lead for Asia at 29th and EA8BZX was the top African. There were no entries from Oceania.

DX Single-Band

The farther south you are, the better 10 meter propagation to the US and Canada will be and LU1HF has won the category four straight times. Two of his countrymen followed as LU9DAG finished 2nd and LR2F 3rd. PU2MTS gave LR2F a sharp challenge, only nine QSOs and one multiplier off the pace. It was all South America for the rest of the way with the notable exception of HP1RIS making the box from Panama.

The 15 meter race was very tight with ZX5J managing to hold off LU2QC's extra three multipliers even though LU2QC was a little farther south with a slight propagation edge. In fact, Argentina took four of the top seven positions in the guise of AY5F, LT0H, LS1D and AY4D. Brazil and Argentina tied with four calls each in the Top Ten; after 1st place we find PY2LSM, PY1KN, and PY6HD. Only KH7Y managed to crack the South American dominance of this category

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	172,901,439	202
Frankford Radio Club	163,867,134	147
Potomac Valley Radio Club	104,516,001	166
Society of Midwest Contesters	27,802,428	107
Florida Contest Group	26,199,330	84
Contest Club Ontario	23,467,464	66
Northern California Contest Club	19,645,713	92
Minnesota Wireless Assn	19,203,147	80
Tennessee Contest Group	13,970,439	59
Medium Category		
North Coast Contesters	28,573,668	16
Mad River Radio Club	18,619,062	32
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	17,762,265	41
Southern California Contest Club	15,752,592	36
Central Texas DX and Contest	12,138,363	19
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	10,202,253	16
Carolina DX Assn	10,157,613	36
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	9,819,210	8
Central Arizona DX Assn	8,008,590	37
South East Contest Club	7,790,904	30
Maritime Contest Club	7,658,814	17
Willamette Valley DX Club	5,929,626	17
East Coast Canada Contest Club	4,585,071	6
Western Washington DX Club	4,515,729	16
North Texas Contest Club	4,450,197	14
Louisiana Contest Club	4,107,786	6
Alabama Contest Group	3,932,166	17
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	2,951,403	20
CTRI Contest Group	2,438,304	9
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	2,141,121	12
Contest Group Du Quebec	1,921,206	7
Utah DX Assn	1,910,640	13
South Jersey Radio Assn	1,566,294	3
BC DX Club	1,507,017	7
Texas DX Society	1,138,392	5
Western New York DX Assn	1,078,395	12
Bergen ARA	1,068,582	15
Oklahoma DX Assn	780,036	4
Alberta Clippers	688,737	3
Saskatchewan Contest Club	634,905	4
Kentucky Contest Group	607,086	7
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	341,889	6
Missouri DX and Contest Club	302,745	5
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	201,210	4
Eastern Iowa DX Assn	133,605	3
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	22,434	3
Local Category		
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	2,066,235	7
Kansas City DX Club	819,570	5
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	683,778	4
Northern Arizona DX Assn	504,855	6
Metro DX Club	491,634	7
Southern California DX Club	487,497	3
Northern Rockies DX Association	439,605	6
Badger Contesters	378,492	5
West Park Radiops	375,240	10
Low Country Contest Club	306,162	7
Austin ARC	279,861	3
Sterling Park ARC	267,267	7
Spokane DX Association	255,285	6
Portage County Amateur Radio	177,744	7
South Jersey DX Assn	106,920	4
Meriden ARC	133,425	4
Great South Bay ARC	45,096	4

in 9th place. Not until 20th place do we find 7J2YAF leading the Asian continent, with E730 as the top European and 3V8SS making the DXers happy by soloing from Africa. CM8WAL was the lone North American entry in the category.

Europe returned to the single-band winner's circle with a vengeance on 20 meters, taking the first five positions and eight of ten slots overall. CU2A was operated well by OH8NC, placing first by a sizeable margin with a huge 3571 QSOs and a new record. A bit farther east, TM9R also found 61 multipliers, but wasn't able to keep up with the CU2A juggernaut. S5ØK and E76C ran a very, very close race for 3rd from the Balkan region and E71A wasn't far behind in 5th. NL7V broke into the Top Ten from Alaska — a rare occurrence on 20 meters.

Europeans filled seven positions in the Top Ten and North Americans three. JA7FTR was the top Asian entry in 29th place and Oceania appears in 33rd with AH7C with J5UAP leading Africa in 35th.

Big scores filled the 40 Meter Top Ten this year, lead by KH7XS with K4XS at the microphone setting a new World record. Although ZL3A came close last year (and placed 6th this year), this is the first time in a while that an Oceania station has won the category. Truly a world-wide band, the continental representatives bounce around from North America in 2nd (KP4KE), to Europe in 3rd and 4th (2002 winner GW7X and S53F), to South America (YW5W), before returning to Oceania. Asia, on the other hand, has a tougher time with the interference from radar and other intruders on the band. UAØCM was the top Asian entry in 39th place and ZS4JAN was the sole African entry.

80 meters is another band that did an about-face from 2008. This year's Top Ten includes seven Europeans, two South Americans and one Caribbean station. Congratulations to Old Timer OH2BH with a resounding win and record from the big CU2X station. GM3PPG fit comfortably in 2nd place in front of a closely spaced trio of YW4V, HG3M and EI7M. A bit farther east saw Polish stations SP3GEM and SN7Q finish 6th and 7th, before YV5MSG and WP4I returned the action to the Caribbean shores. IZ4NIC closed out the Top Ten this year.

The competition really heated up this year as the Big Guns decided to give Top Band a try. ZF2AH switched from 80 meters in 2008 to take the win on Top Band in 2009 ahead of 2008 winner KV4FZ who just barely eluded the clutches of F6CTT in 3rd. Europeans finally got a chance to join in the fun as F6CTT's score is nearly 48 times larger than the top 2008 EU score! In fact all of the remaining Top Ten scores are from Europe and all are substantially larger than would have been possible in 2008. AO8A won 40 meters in 2008 and place 4th on 160 this year, the only African score and LU2DVI made a repeat appearance as the only South American score this year, but not in the Top Ten.

DX Multioperator

No small part of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club's rise to the gavel this year is the contributions of category winner V26F and 8th place C6ANM; about 8 Mpts! Right on their tails and about a hundred miles south, the VP5H team of Minnesota Wireless Association members actually made a few more QSOs, but didn't quite keep up on the multiplier total. The 4B2S team moved up a couple of places this year from Mexico to take third. HI3K made a third consecutive appearance in the Top Ten while PSØF is new to the

Multi-Single Top Ten. Spending some time in the Madeiras, the German team at CT9L was the top African entry. Keeping their feet warm in the Caribbean sands was a French team at TO2T, while the VP9I team traveled east from Frankford Radio Club territory. And it's nice to see a Cuban team at T46G making the Top Ten, the first in a long time, if ever. Just off the pace was the European leader IR4T in 11th place. JAØQNJ lead all Asian entries in 33rd position and three places farther down the list finds VK6ANC as the top Oceania MS entry.

Multi-Two and Multi-Multi

In what may turn out to have been the swan song of KY1V's big 6Y1V station, the team took home the walnut once again with a two-category-dominating score — both M2 and MM — nice job! The action got very thick, very fast after that as TM6M, TI8M, ZY7C, and V48M — teams from EU, NA, and SA — all scrambled for 2nd through 4th place. This was one of the most competitive Multi-Two Top Tens in years and shows how popular this category is rapidly becoming. Asia was represented in the Top Ten by JA1YPA, as high as any team from Asia has placed in this category on my watch. Oceania and Africa didn't field an M2 team this year. While MS teams tend towards the traveler, seven of the Top Ten M2 scores show operators from right there at home this year.

In Multioperator, Multi-Transmitter, the big noise was made by the Caribbean Contest Consortium at PJ2T. This is their sixth first-place finish in M2 or MM in the past seven years, surely one of the most successful station-building efforts ever. KL7RA in second made the first Alaskan appearance in a multi-op Top Ten since 2005, a ringing endorsement of the new station going up on the Kenai Peninsula. A string of five EU stations follows, led by CS2C in 3rd place with a hardworking duo of Czech operators beating larger teams. JA3YBK lead Asia with another two-operator team, completing the eight Multi-Multi entries received this year.

Concluding Remarks

I found the enthusiasm and excitement palpable in this year's results. The ionosphere smiled and contesters smiled back. It's one of the reasons that I look forward so much to the coming solar cycle in which we will find many more stations joining our ranks and moving participation-based records to levels completely out of reach in past years. Will we see another 10,000-QSO Single-Operator, All-Band tally? Certainly. What will be the new Multi-Multi record — 25 Mpts? 30 Mpts? As every HF operator knows, the sky is the limit!

Keep it ever so — see you on the 6th and 7th of March next year! 