

Results, 2010 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

A contest for every style of operating!

Gary Breed, K9AY
k9ay@k9ay.com

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest attracts serious contesters and avid 160 meter DXers but it is also an exciting adventure for hams who simply want to have fun exploring the low end of the Amateur Radio spectrum such as Vic, KI6VC who commented, “This was my first contest or even any real experience on 160. I think I’ll

be back for more!” In Vic’s first 160 meter contest effort he made 374 QSOs with 71 multipliers from his California City, CA QTH.

2010 Contest Notes

As your author was reviewing the results, a few things stood out. The first was a record number of DX logs submitted and an overall increase in scores from Europe in the Low Power and Multioperator categories. It wasn’t band conditions — 2010 was good, but 2009 had better propagation — the higher DX participation seems to be from more enthusiasm. Thanks to all of our DX friends! In addition, with 1306 logs submitted, the 2010 contest had the second-highest participation ever, just slightly below the record level of 2009.

It is impossible to talk about the 160 meter band without including propagation in the conversation. My own experience was that the second night was much better than the first but many hams from other parts of the country reported the opposite pattern. I saw below-average conditions everywhere to the west but other hams reported that the western stations were particularly loud and easy to work. Without a doubt, the unique Medium Wave propagation is one of the mysteries that makes Top Band a fascinating place!

Multioperator

K1LZ, operated by station owner Krassy with help from Velimir, K3JO and Mladen, NU5Y, captured the top spot in the Multioperator category and set a new scoring record for the Multioperator category with nearly 656k points.

Three other stations topped the 500k level in this category with W2FU in WNY and the W2GD crew on the Jersey shore (SNJ Section) taking 2nd and 3rd respectively. Out in Iowa, the operators at NØNI skillfully steered Toni’s station to more

than 509k points and the #4 spot, a notable achievement from the US Midwest with its greater distance from most DX activity. Other fine performances from the Midwest included WB9Z (7th) and WØAIH (10th).

Single-Operator, QRP

The top QRP score was earned by Glenn, WØGJ in Bemidji, MN whose 2010 score was just 1.4% below his 2009 record. Note that N7IR (5th) and K6EI (6th) are “Out West” where Top Ten scores can be hard to find. Great job, guys!

GLENN JOHNSON, WØGJ



You don’t need a big antenna to get on 160 and have fun, but winning is another matter! This big vertical helped Glenn, WØGJ win the QRP category for the third year in a row.



W/VE

Single Operator, QRP

WØGJ	138,852
N8BB	101,885
K4CNW	80,770
NØUR	70,645
N7IR	62,826
W3TS	61,628
K6EI	54,216
N9NE	50,317
VE3MGY	43,384
AA1CA	40,474

Single Operator, Low Power

N1UR	238,543
K8FH	227,136
NE9U	216,678
N2ZN	214,920
WB8JUI	200,640
K1EP	200,335
K8BL	199,300
K4FT	186,816
WØUO	183,206
KØPK	177,284

Single Operator, High Power

VY2ZM	
(K1ZM, op)	864,753
K8PO	647,873
VE3EJ	586,929
K1DG	573,750
W8JI	573,520
K9DX	556,100
NO3M	507,494
K5NA	501,540
K1LT	477,056
AA1K	473,301

Multioperator

K1LZ	655,914
W2FU	580,354
W2GD	544,952
NØNI	509,696
K3VWV	494,736
N1LN	488,630
WB9Z	457,800
N3UA	424,494
W3UA	415,896
WØAIH	413,699

DX

Single Operator, High Power

C6AGU	
(AA7JV, op)	206,560
ZF2AH	114,404
P4ØTA	
(K6TA, op)	103,950
VP5CW	
(W5CW, op)	82,960
XE2WWW	81,176
CT1JLZ	
(OK1RF, op)	62,578
EI2CN	47,792
CE1/K7CA	43,956
G4AMT	35,990
UX2X	
(UT2XQ, op)	24,480

Single Operator, Low Power

HI3TEJ	48,256
M5O	
(G3LET, op)	13,728
G4AFS	7,544
IKØXBX	2,240
UT5ECZ	1,848
G3RLE	1,824
DL1EMY	1,748
SP5CJY	1,680
HA8BE	1,628
PAØO	1,364

Single Operator, QRP

9A1CRJ	
(9A3QB, op)	2
ER3AU	2

Multioperator

C6AKQ	187,726
PJ2T	186,282
VP2MSC	108,264
U7DX	56,290
UU7J	38,164
OL7M	33,488
F2DX	33,394
DR4A	21,318
9A5MT	16,758
OKSZ	16,560

Division Winners by Category

Single Operator, QRP

Atlantic	W3TS	61,628
Central	N9NE	50,317
Dakota	W0GJ	138,852
Delta	K54X	15,181
Great Lakes	N8BB	101,885
Hudson	KR2Q	18,648
Midwest	W7QA (KE5RX, op)	15,080
New England	AA1CA	40,474
Northwestern	W7YAQ	9,288
Pacific	K6EI	54,216
Roanoke	K4CNW	80,770
Rocky Mountain	WC7S	16,896
Southeastern	K3TW	29,160
Southwestern	N7IR	62,826
West Gulf	W5ESE	6,732
Canada	VE3MGY	43,384

Single Operator, Low Power

Atlantic	N2ZN	214,920
Central	NE9U	216,678
Dakota	K0PK	177,284
Delta	W4DAN	85,045
Great Lakes	K8FH	227,136
Hudson	W2ID	141,064
Midwest	K0DI	159,645
New England	N1UR	238,543
Northwestern	K7TQ	54,069
Pacific	N6RK	101,024
Roanoke	N8II	145,912
Rocky Mountain	WF4U	90,692
Southeastern	AA4LR	107,172
Southwestern	AC7A	59,520
West Gulf	W0UO	183,206
Canada	VE1ZA	58,596

Single Operator, High Power

Atlantic	N03M	507,494
Central	K9DX	556,100
Dakota	W0SD (W0DB, op)	411,348
Delta	N8OO	346,905
Great Lakes	K1LT	477,056
Hudson	N2GC	174,303
Midwest	N0TT	264,264
New England	K8PO	647,873
Northwestern	K7RL	252,396
Pacific	W7RN (KY7M, op)	256,405
Roanoke	N4XD	321,196
Rocky Mountain	WD5COV	227,340
Southeastern	W8JI	573,520
Southwestern	N6MA	135,696
West Gulf	K5NA	501,540
Canada	VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	864,753

Multioperator

Atlantic	W2FU	580,354
Central	WB9Z	457,800
Dakota	K0KX	239,890
Delta	W04O	175,398
Great Lakes	W8MJ	353,916
Hudson	N2BA	266,532
Midwest	N0NI	509,696
New England	K1LZ	655,914
Northwestern	NK7U	237,699
Pacific	N6ML	258,570
Roanoke	N1LN	488,630
Rocky Mountain	K0RF	404,860
Southeastern	N4WW	235,724
Southwestern	N6SS	282,596
West Gulf	W5TM	402,083
Canada	VE2OJ	381,250

Single-Operator, Low Power

Low Power is the most popular and competitive category in this contest with 40% of all logs submitted. At the top of the Low Power list is Ed, N1UR in Vermont whose higher multiplier total made the difference.

The Ohio section was well represented with Fred, K8FH taking 2nd; Rick, WB8JUI reaching 5th; and Bob, K8BL in 7th. Other top finishers from the middle of the US were Scott, NE9U (WI) in 3rd; John, K4FT (KY) in 7th; and Paul, K0PK (MN) in 10th. In 9th place and the farthest west operator to make the Top Ten was Jim, W0UO in NTX. Completing the list are Ken, N2ZN (WNY) in 4th and Ed, K1EP (EMA) in 6th.

Single-Operator, High Power

The High Power category is always competitive with highly experienced operators at well-designed, well-equipped stations filling the Top Ten. The winner is VY2ZM manned by Jeff, K1ZM, who also broke his own High Power record. Second and 4th place finishes were achieved from Maine by Paul, K8PO, and Doug, K1DG. Sandwiched between them was John, VE3EJ, from his eastern Ontario QTH. Fifth place was captured from central Georgia where Tom, W8JI, piloted his superb station.

In 6th place was John, K9DX, operating from northern Illinois. This event was the last ARRL 160 Meter contest for his famous 9-circle array and other antennas, which are being dismantled following the 2010-2011 low band season.

DX Notes

Two DX stations managed to make one QSO each with QRP: 9A1CRJ (operated by 9A3QB) and ER3AU. Caribbean contester Ted, HI3TEJ was the top Low Power DX entry but nine Europeans completed the Top Ten.

In High Power, C6AGU (George, AA7JV, op) made an excellent score from the Bahamas where “high power” is just 250 W! P40TA (Ken, K6TA, op) turned in the top score from South America. Jiri, CT1JLZ (who is also OK1RF) had an excellent contest, finishing as the top High Power entry from Europe.

Another Bahamas operation, C6AKQ, topped the DX Multioperator list, operated by Mike, K4RUM and Bob, N4BP. Off the coast of South America, the active club station PJ2T took 2nd in DX with K8LEE and W0CG doing the operating.

Club Competition

The runaway winner for this year’s gavel was the Yankee Clipper Contest Club which made a concerted effort to encourage members to get on the air and make some QSOs. A close finish for the next two spots saw the Potomac Valley Radio Club edge out the Society of Midwest Contesters. Not far behind was the Minnesota Wireless Association. These four clubs represent 231 entries, or nearly 17% of all contest logs.

Contest clubs are important; they certainly encourage plenty of activity!

At the top of the Medium category is the Frankford Radio Club, with nearly 4.7 million points from 43 members; that averages out to almost 109,000 points per submitted log! The Tennessee Contest Group hit second place with more than 2 million points from its 27 entries, followed by the Mad River Radio Club and the Northern California Contest Club. The Local Category saw the

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	5,907,308	53
Potomac Valley Radio Club	4,795,237	61
Society of Midwest Contesters	4,694,910	58
Minnesota Wireless Assn	3,967,194	59
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	4,683,109	43
Tennessee Contest Group	2,019,244	27
Mad River Radio Club	1,805,105	14
Northern California Contest Club	1,387,730	36
South East Contest Club	1,368,851	12
Central Texas DX and Contest	1,252,806	8
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	1,189,928	12
Contest Club Ontario	1,181,298	25
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	1,100,406	8
Alabama Contest Group	1,046,623	19
North Texas Contest Club	1,032,160	9
Florida Contest Group	974,147	16
Kentucky Contest Group	806,344	6
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	669,847	21
Contest Group Du Quebec	639,672	8
Southern California Contest	625,454	14
Western New York DX Assn	601,215	8
CTRI Contest Group	555,135	6
Western Washington DX Club	449,205	11
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	437,349	14
Maritime Contest Club	360,005	10
Willamette Valley DX Club	346,713	8
Utah DX Assn	290,881	4
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	254,244	4
Louisiana Contest Club	215,258	3
North Coast Contesters	202,916	3
Carolina DX Association	184,542	4
Saskatchewan Contest Club	161,814	4
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	983,201	7
Iowa DX and Contest Club	599,954	3
Spokane DX Association	402,286	5
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	343,368	6
Kansas City DX Club	289,166	3
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	268,664	4
New Mexico Big River	251,823	4
West Park Radiops	187,624	8
DELARA Contest Team	185,138	4
Sterling Park ARC	180,869	3
Blue Ridge ARC	137,006	4
Bristol (TN) ARC	36,408	3
Midland ARC	35,906	3
Bergen ARA	23,190	3

7 entries from the Central Virginia Contest Club combine for nearly 1 million points.

Final Thoughts

Whether you plan to be highly competitive, chase DX, or just want see what the 160 meter band is like, take advantage of summer weather to get your antennas ready for the first weekend in December (Dec 2-4), when the next ARRL 160 Meter Contest will fill the band with the QRM and general mayhem of a major contest...and lots of fun among good friends!

“Find An Opening Online”

The extended version of this article is available online at www.arll.org/contests and includes more analysis, complete line scores and a searchable database.

You can also find personal stories and photos in the ARRL Soapbox at www.arll.org/soapbox.