

The 1997 ARRL 160-Meter Contest Results

Interest in the Top Band Contest continues to hold strong. There are a number of factors contributing to the success of the contest. One is the mere nature of the band. Operators seem to be more laid back and polite on 160. (This by no means diminishes the competition or the fierce battles for the top spots.) Contacts are plentiful and multipliers are easier to accumulate than one may think. There is a feeling of accomplishment when working stations that are 500 miles or more away, not to mention the thrill of completing a DX QSO with another continent. Working DX is always fun, and on 160 meters, it's twice as enjoyable.

Another contributing factor to the success of this year's contest was the better-than-normal band conditions with low atmospheric noise during most of the contest. Good band conditions are essential for high scores. We received good reports from all corners of the world. Aki, JE1SPY, relates, "Band conditions were very good. Japanese stations can work Europe and North America at the same time." (Although only the W/VE contacts count for DX stations during the contest.) Murphy cooperated quite well in the weather department. We didn't have all the snow, ice and wind we suffered during last year's contest. We did have a few reports of a storm or two, but nothing like last year.

Even though entries in this year's contest were down a little from last year's record number of entries (777), they were slightly higher than the number of entries in 1995. For 1997, we received 735 entries. There is no doubt that there were some of the 160-meter regulars out there giving the contesters a helping hand. The top scoring stations were competing between 1300 and 1400 QSOs!

Veteran 160 contesteer Jeff, K1ZM, operating from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and taking advantage of the 5 pointers into Europe, outscored all others in the single-operator high-power category. Jon, N5JA, gave us his best ending up 57,000 points shy for a second place finish. Jon outgained Jeff with QSO totals (N5JA completed 1361 QSOs, K1ZM completed 1322). It was the multipliers that did N5JA in. Jeff had 119 multipliers, Jon had 107. Is this another story of the "East Coast advantage"? You be the judge.

Again this year, the top spots in the low power category were very close with less than 3000 separating them. Eastern New Yorker, Bob, W2XL, topped the list of the low power single operators. Gordon, WA1LNP, finished in second place. The QRP category is becoming quite popular. Out of the 72 entries that tried QRP, Charlie, N0TT, finished in first

place with 95,000 points. Richard, WK3I, was second with 81,000. In the multioperator category, the crew at W4WA edged out WB9Z by 14,000 for the win. Check the boxes for other winners.

Club Competition for the gavel is still in its infancy. From the beginning, there hasn't been much change in the standings. It almost looks like a snapshot of last year's results. The Frankford Radio Club took the Unlimited category with 52 entries. The Potomac Valley Radio Club mustered a few more club

members this year for their Medium Club gavel with the highest club score in any category. In the Local Club category, the Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers easily win again this year.

For those who haven't tried the ARRL 160-Meter Contest, you are missing out on the fun. Mark your calendar for this year's competition, December 4-6, 1998.



Jeff, K1ZM, was delighted to see so much participation from outside W/VE. Jeff finished in first place, single operator, high power.

Top Ten

Single Operator, QRP		Single Operator, High Power	
N0TT	95,025	K1ZM	383,180
WK3I	81,690	N5JA	325,922
N9JF	70,856	VE3EJ	291,593
W8VK	67,518	N1BB	283,291
K3CR	57,600	KQ2M	264,276
(K3AFT,op)		N4AR	249,400
K0RI	56,070	K8CC	245,427
VE3DO	53,106	(W8MJ,op)	
K9OM	44,073	K3RR	234,816
K8LUQ	42,036	K9DX	233,151
N9NE	41,202	K5NA	212,236

Single Operator, Low Power		Multioperator	
W4WA	325,066	W4WA	325,066
W2XL	170,016	WB9Z	311,472
WA1LNP	167,854	WW2Y	310,640
K1PX	140,800	K8MK	300,195
W3EEE	139,040	K8KS	267,549
K7CA	138,013	K8ND	238,452
N4CM	133,760	W9RE	237,632
K1HTV	129,750	W4MYA	217,798
W0UO	124,821	N0NI	216,152
W0AO	123,424	K3WW	212,042
WJ0M	115,192		

Murphy, Leave me Alone!

By Rich Carstensen, W8VK

Murphy wants to be my "pal" during almost every ARRL 160-Meter Contest. In 1995, a coax feed-through went bad and, as a consequence, my TS-520S transceiver was damaged. I switched to my TS-520SE, but after 30 minutes it succumbed to Murphy, too. My dreams of first-place in the QRP class went down the drain.

In 1996, Murphy struck again. This time it was the weather. Ohio was hit with a bad ice storm. My antenna tower and the inverted Vs were covered with ice. Heavy winds came, and down went the wire antennas.

In June of 1997, I rebuilt the tower and strung some new wire antennas in the hope of catching the QRP first-place spot. Before I knew it, December 5—contest day—had arrived. As I sat waiting for the last 30 minutes to tick by, some thoughts came to mind. It had been two years since I'd contested as a single operator for more than 12 hours. My code speed was the worst it had ever been in two years. I hadn't used two computer keyboards together for some time. (That was part of my shack PC upgrade.) With so many good contest operators out there, I knew that clinching the top QRP spot was probably unreasonable. I set my sights somewhat lower—my goals for this year would be to nail down the championship for the Great Lakes, the Central Region, and to catch that 50th state for WAS on the Top Band.

I pounded through the first night with fierce determination. By 8 AM the sun was rising and activity was starting to die off—for now. I quickly summed up the operating period. I had maintained a pretty good QSO rate, and was down a few sections from my score in 1994.

I arrived back at the contest site around 2:30 that afternoon. Murphy had been visiting while I was away! A combination of wind and ice had tangled the antenna wires. What a mess! It took me two hours to restore everything to normal.

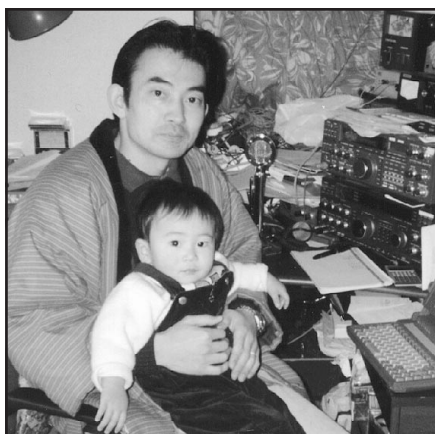
The second night of operating went very well. I finished my Worked All States on 160 when I bagged AH6M in Hawaii. My final score calculation beat my own records from 1994. I can't wait to see this year's results in the April QST.

Call sign, score, entry category (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power, D = Multioperator)

Northeast Region			Southeast Region			Central Region			Midwest Region			West Coast Region		
New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections			Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions			Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario Section			Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections			Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT/Yukon Sections		
WK3I	81,690	A	KV8S	34,398	A	N9JF	70,856	A	N0TT	95,025	A	WW7YC (K7FR,op)	35,264	A
K3CR (KB3AFT,op)	57,600	A	N5OE	34,221	A	W8VK	67,518	A	K0RI	56,070	A	N7IR	23,430	A
W3TS	39,008	A	W4TMR	33,120	A	VE3DO	53,106	A	K5AM	32,630	A	N6OJ	11,767	A
N1TM	19,240	A	N4RO	21,758	A	K9OM	44,073	A	NC7W	28,210	A	AA7UN	10,168	A
N2VPK	9,724	A	K4MJ	11,232	A	K8LUQ	42,036	A	K0FRP	28,188	A	K7SY	9,176	A
W2XL	170,016	B	W3EEE	139,040	B	WA8YRS	114,523	B	W0UO	124,821	B	K7CA	138,013	B
WA1LNP	167,854	B	N4CM	133,760	B	WA8TMK	107,712	B	WJ0M	115,192	B	N7GP	67,562	B
K1PX	140,800	B	W0AO	123,424	B	WA1UJU	93,340	B	K5KA	102,179	B	AH6M (K7SS,op)	58,362	B
K1HTV	129,570	B	WA4FFW	88,319	B	VE3OSZ	89,096	B	W5FO	86,163	B	WA2DFI	54,460	B
W2TZ	113,953	B	N2NFG	82,278	B	K9MMS	86,933	B	K0BJ	77,234	B	W6UC	52,736	B
K1ZM	383,180	C	AA4S	182,896	C	VE3EJ	291,593	C	N5JA	325,922	C	W7GG	156,046	C
N1BB	283,291	C	K0EJ	170,396	C	N4AR	249,400	C	K5NA	212,236	C	N6RO	122,672	C
KQ2M	264,276	C	K1KY	158,000	C	K8CC (W8MJ,op)	245,427	C	W0UA	190,432	C	N6SS	110,136	C
K3RR	234,816	C	AA4NN	146,124	C	K9DX	233,151	C	VE5RA	144,254	C	K6SE	84,688	C
W1SJ	179,655	C	K8OQL	143,724	C	KE9I	177,762	C	N0MA (W0EJ, op)	184,992	C	W7RM (K17Y,op)	80,850	C
WW2Y	310,640	D	W4WA	325,066	D	WB9Z	311,472	D	N0NI	216,152	D	K7OX	88,627	D
K3WW	212,042	D	W4MYA	217,798	D	K8MK	300,195	D	NX5M	210,672	D	N7KE	86,904	D
K3SV	200,314	D	K4PB	130,310	D	K8KS	267,549	D	W0AH	198,832	D	KH7R	68,839	D
N2MM	189,240	D	WA4CBX	102,258	D	K8ND	238,452	D	W7CW	179,197	D	W7LR	66,456	D
W9XR	180,688	D	NT4D	82,875	D	W9RE	237,632	D	NA5B	163,125	D	W7AWA	64,440	D

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Category		
Frankford Radio Club	2,522,411	52
Medium Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	2,616,709	45
Society of Midwest Contesters	1,744,696	15
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	1,686,514	30
Mad River Radio Club	1,562,761	10
North Coast Contesters	1,077,180	10
Tennessee Contest Group	660,153	7
North Texas Contest Club	651,680	7
South East Contest Club	616,722	8
Oklahoma DX Assn	434,004	4
Kentucky Contest Group	386,522	8
Minnesota Wireless Assn	305,445	3
Northern California Contest Club	293,696	8
Central Arizona DX Assn	276,490	5
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	264,747	7
Salt City DX Assn	245,817	3
Texas DX Society	184,704	5
Willamette Valley DX Club	133,684	4
Western Washington DX Club	126,080	5
Southern California Contest Club	117,764	5
Florida Contest Club	110,233	4
Northern Lights Radio Society	55,495	3
Local Category		
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	479,074	5
West Park Radiops	83,732	4



Well-known Tokyo contester Aki, JE1SPY, operated single operator, low power.

SOAPBOX

Boat, wood stove, 1/4 wave vertical, balloon, and drink equals a fun weekend (WA7UQV). I only had a few hours to operate due to a family visit and my 3-month-old son who demanded some attention. See you next year (K3CV). At the age of 81, night contests are getting tough (VE4JB). The contest was a great event as usual (K7OA). I enjoyed great conditions during the contest, using 5 W and an end-fed longwire up 20 feet. I am amazed what I could work with meager power and a poor antenna (WA3VAT). Using a quarter-wave balloon antenna on Saturday night helped. I am not used to pileups (W0UY). I was impressed by the overwhelming majority that honored the DX window. Seems like it was kept much clearer than in years past. While conditions to Europe seemed down, propagation to the western states seemed quite good. Another fun contest (N4XD). Great contest. Each year my station is getting closer to the top 10 in the country (W2RE). This was my first

year on the "Top Band" and my first contest entered as a single op. I didn't have much confidence in my little 1/4 wave inverted L, but after the contest I felt much better. I really enjoyed working 160 meters (KB8KIK). There were many fine signals out here again this year. KH7R's station was going like the Energizer Bunny. I could use their signal as an indicator of band conditions, but could not hear very many of the stations they were working (KH6/WB6FZH). I put the 160 meter module in the Argo just to check the band and found a contest under way. So I put the 80 meter feeders together into the tuner and jumped in. Most operators came back to my 5 W on the first call. It was really fun to work W7GG in Oregon (N2VPK). This is always a fun contest. Nice to work so many people on 160 meters. What a band! (K0WA)! The first night band conditions were very good, with S1 or less noise levels. The second night was characterized with QRN due to storm activity. I didn't hear any stations from Florida, West Virginia, or Delaware (K16CK). I was surprised to have contacted as many stations as I did. My antenna is a half-wave dipole up at 15 ft. Worked about everything I heard. Now I'll roll up the 200 feet

of wire strung all around my house until next month. The neighbors might actually miss it. Nah. They've never appreciated my sense of beauty and style. Wire is beautiful (K5OY). Where was the DX? Even without the DX it was great fun (N4GU). My first try at this contest. Thanks to Jim (VESDX) for allowing me to put the station through its paces (VESMX). I had a ball. There were great conditions. Special thanks to KL7Y for an all-time new one (VE2ZP). Conditions not as good as last year but I did break 1000 Qs for the first time (K0EJ). This was my first effort for this particular game. What a blast! The band conditions were excellent Friday into Saturday with more noise Saturday into Sunday. I found so many old friends during the contest that it seemed like a ham radio reunion (K1KY). This was a great contest. My big thrill was being called by WP2Z and being heard by RA0FF (K7CA). I decided to do a "nostalgia" contest this time and used my 20-year-old Drake C-Line barefoot. Remember when we could only run 100 W on 160? I'd forgotten how many knobs we used to turn! It was a great contest as usual (K5KA). I had a ball. There were many KH6s, and quite a few Europeans (VE2ZP). I had plenty of success running QRP this year. I added 14 new states (N0AX). This was a fun contest. My first 160 CW. I like it and will do it again (N5KB). The contest opened in a fury on Friday night. Murphy struck in the form of snow. DX was impossible for me on Friday, but conditions were better on Saturday. Thanks to everyone for my QSOs (K8FC). This is the first time I've operated 160 in over 25 years (N4ST). Fifty watts and a dipole can make for some good fun. Also having two KL7s call me sure got my heart pounding (N0HJZ). Who said CW was dead? There was lots of activity and fine operators (W9LNQ). This was a fun contest. I noticed there was not much DX activity. I am looking forward to next year (KN2T). It's amazing what you can do with 5 W on 160! (WX7G). Although conditions were definitely poorer than last year, we had a blast. DX was scarcer and weaker than in the previous 160 Meter Contests (K8KS). It was a thrill to operate this contest using low power (W5CWQ). I didn't do as well as past years, but had just as much fun (W4TMR). This is the first time for me to enter the 160 Meter Contest. I enjoyed every sleepless minute of it. See you again next year (W5FO). I ran QRP for the first time in a contest in 3 years. I couldn't believe the stations I worked and the fun I had. Everyone should try QRP once (WA8RCN).

Scores

Scores are listed by DXCC Countries and ARRL/RAC Sections. Within each country or section, scores are listed in descending order, by power categories, followed by multioperators. Line scores list call sign, score, QSOs, multipliers, power (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power, D = Multioperator). Division leaders are listed in bold.

Asia					Europe					England					Denmark				
Japan					Balearic Islands					G0KRL					OZ3W				
JA0QNJ	1,760	40	22	B	JH2BCN	208	13	8	C	E6A6C	588	21	14	C	PA0CLN	2,150	43	25	C
J13KDH/3	900	30	15	B	JH9ZHQ	4	2	1	C	Italy					Netherlands				
JE1SPY	600	20	15	B	JH1BBT,JK1GKG,ops)	6,600	100	33	D	I3VHO	630	21	15	C	Slovenia				
J47AMK	96	8	8	B	JA2YKA (J14RDO,JL7JRO,ops)	50	5	5	D	Czech Republic					S58A	14,168	161	44	C
JA2MGO	2	1	1	B	Asiatic Russia					OK1DWC	40	5	4	C					
JA7NI	4,420	85	26	C	RA0FF	532	19	14	B										
JL1ARF	1,932	46	21	C															
JH4ADK	1,200	20	12	C															

