

Results, the 2002 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

Ready to throw conventional wisdom out the door?

*“Top band? From my small city lot?”
“I don’t have acres to set up Beverages
and a four-square.”
“You can’t work anyone from the ‘black
hole.’”
“I can’t compete against the East Coast.”*

Near the top of the sunspot cycle, conventional wisdom says don’t waste too much time on the low bands. Noise-levels are higher. Activity is down. Propagation isn’t as good. You won’t be able to work through the East coast curtain for the DX (well, that is the claim pretty much for all contesters from west of the Mississippi).

So what happened during the 2002 ARRL 160-Meter Contest?

In a year when you would expect participation to be average, since we are just past the sunspot cycle peak and not nearly at the bottom, a record number of entries were received for the contest. The old record of 777 (1996) was not just broken, it was shattered, as a record 930 entries were received at the ARRL—a 20% increase!

A new overall record was set in the Single Operator High Power category—although this one is easily explainable since it was by the superstation of VY2ZM (aka Jeff, K1ZM, arguably the most dominant contester on Top Band these days). But besides the obvious, at least one new division category record was set in five ARRL Divisions (Central, Great Lakes, New England, Roanoke and Rocky Moun-

tain). Finally, one of the other Canadian category records was rewritten.

So, do we throw out conventional wisdom for a “new era” on Top Band?

Before we get carried away...

While total number of QSOs reported for 2002 was an all-time record (263,091) the mean and median number of QSOs

were well below previous record levels for the contest. So we have more logs, but fewer QSOs per log.

During the contest, Jeff, VY2ZM, worked a total of 1592 valid QSOs surpassing the previous top QSO total made by any class station of 1563, done in 1996 by the W4WA multioperator winner. Since you can only work a station once during this contest, perhaps another good measure of activity (at least for this contest) is the fact that there were at least 1593 stations on the air that made at least one contact.

Participation by Single Operator stations was at an all-time high in each of the three power categories—QRP (82), Low (422), and High (311). It was good to see QRP activity growing. Several participants mentioned using the popular K2. John, K4WTF, participating in his first-ever contest—talked about the thrill of working both KH6ND and ZF2NT.

Top Ten Finishers

In the Single Operator QRP category, a close finish was seen between Kyle, WA4PGM, who set a new Roanoke Division record and Pat, N8VW, who staked

Top Ten

Single Operator, QRP

WA4PGM	70,497
N8VW	69,370
W3TS	56,224
W8VK	49,471
N7IR	36,934
N2CU	35,412
W4FMS	31,819
KD7AEE	31,552
K4WTF	30,919
WB8RTJ	30,294

Single Operator, Low Power

K1PX	174,600
K7CA	172,557
KO9A	143,701
W2LC	138,523
WX9U	130,284
K2BA	129,150
K4CNW	128,002
K4OAO	124,336
W0UO	122,924
WB9CIF	120,238

Single Operator, High Power

VY2ZM (K1ZM, op)	639,744
AA1K	347,415
K9DX	314,172
W4MYA	303,054
VE3EJ	278,850
N1EU	278,320
N2NT	260,172
W5MX	233,700
K5NA	227,856
N4AF	216,546

Multioperator

KC1XX	405,728
W2GD	343,196
WB9Z	299,985
K8XXX	267,200
NO2R	251,899
K9IZ	238,832
N0NI	226,530
W0AIH	210,672
KV0Q	210,056
K3WW	202,368

Expanded Reports Available

For expanded results, participant soapbox and the complete scores in a user-searchable database, please visit www.arrl.org/contests/results. ARRL Members without Internet access may obtain a printout of the complete line scores by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ARRL Contest Results, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Please be sure to include the contest name and year.



The K6OM QTH was at Bodega Bay, California, made famous by the Hitchcock movie, “The Birds.” The tides and weather played havoc with their antenna system.

Top Five By Region

Tables list call sign, score, QSOs, multipliers, power (A = QRP, B = Low Power, C = High Power, D = Multioperator)

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/Yukon Sections)				
W3TS	56,224	499	56	A	WA4PGM	70,497	558	63	A	N8VW	69,370	490	70	A	KD7AEE	31,552	249	64	A	N7IR	36,934	310	59	A
N2CU	35,412	339	52	A	W4TMR	29,044	268	53	A	W8VK	49,471	409	61	A	W0RSP	23,161	214	53	A	WX7G	13,940	170	41	A
K3TW	22,618	260	43	A	KW4JS	12,710	164	41	A	W4FMS	31,819	344	47	A	W0SEI	23,100	238	50	A	N6WG	12,204	168	36	A
W1AMF	15,129	188	41	A	W4DEC	11,440	142	40	A	K4WTF	30,919	334	49	A	WA8ZBT	22,842	243	47	A	K6EI	12,096	191	32	A
W1EM	10,760	135	40	A	K8OWL	10,032	132	38	A	WB8RTJ	30,294	304	51	A	W0CH	20,748	198	52	A	N6CMF	11,268	155	36	A
K1PX	174,600	938	90	B	K4CNW	128,002	761	82	B	KO9A	143,701	901	79	B	K7CA	172,557	942	83	B	N6MU(@N6NB)	63,145	425	73	B
W2LC	138,523	888	77	B	K4OAO	124,336	812	76	B	(@WE9V)					K2BA	129,150	860	75	B	N6RK	54,390	382	70	B
WA1Z	93,528	631	72	B	K4WI	84,375	557	75	B	WX9U	130,284	837	77	B	W0UO	122,924	769	79	B	N6NF	52,302	350	69	B
K1NK	88,515	703	63	B	NA4K	72,280	552	65	B	WB9CIF	120,238	756	79	B	N0FP	104,720	678	77	B	AC7A	39,130	298	65	B
K1DC	79,940	562	70	B	K3JT	70,560	499	70	B	K9BG	110,732	721	76	B	N0IM	103,896	660	78	B	K7ON	38,610	292	66	B
										K8FH	107,870	769	70	B										
VY2ZM	639,744	1592	136	C	W4MYA	303,054	1330	106	C	K9DX	314,172	1387	108	C	K5NA	227,856	1152	94	C	K6SE	134,055	777	81	C
(K1ZM, op)					N4AF	216,546	1000	102	C	VE3EJ	278,850	1181	110	C	N5RG	175,120	949	88	C	KH6ND	123,760	645	80	C
AA1K	347,415	1353	115	C	N4PN	199,108	1064	91	C	W5MX	233,700	1193	95	C	K5RX	173,070	914	90	C	(@KH7R)				
N1EU	278,320	1110	112	C	K4EA	169,442	819	98	C	K9NW	208,620	1131	90	C	AE9B	170,796	982	86	C	KG7H	122,391	701	81	C
N2NT	260,172	1084	108	C	K8AC	154,425	848	87	C	N9RV	197,997	1031	93	C	N0TT	157,120	980	80	C	WA7LT	111,274	654	82	C
K1RX	203,991	918	97	C											W6TRW	109,980	657	78	C	(K0DI, op)				
KC1XX	405,728	1306	124	D	W4CBX	112,133	664	83	D	WB9Z	299,985	1374	105	D	N0NI	226,530	1248	90	D	N7GP	173,968	962	83	D
W2GD	343,196	1222	119	D	N4CW	108,216	647	81	D	K8XXX	267,200	1288	100	D	KV0Q	210,056	1113	88	D	N7KE	97,014	591	74	D
NO2R	251,899	997	109	D	K3KO	101,360	619	80	D	K9IZ	238,832	1277	92	D	NX5M	198,540	1056	90	D	K7TJR	60,705	389	71	D
K3WW	202,368	1010	96	D	W4NF	100,548	647	76	D	W0AIH	210,672	1190	88	D	N5TW	192,774	1061	89	D	W7TCP	47,168	349	67	D
K2UG	201,818	1031	94	D	N4VV	51,940	360	70	D	N8EA	126,034	756	82	D	N1LN	165,528	900	88	D	W6AW	38,864	349	56	D

his claim with a new Great Lakes Division record. Once the dust had settled, it was Kyle taking top honors back to his Virginia shack by a score of 70,497 to 69,370. After N8VW (OH) we find Dana, W3TS (EPA), Rick, W8VK (OH), Gary, N7IR (AZ), Tom, N2CU (WNY), Frank, W4FMS (MI), Dave, KD7AEE (UT), John, K4WTF (OH), and Jim WB8RTJ (OH) rounded out the category Top Ten.

Single Operator Low Power also saw a real tussle for top honors, this time between Jim, K1PX (CT), and Al, K7CA (UT). Though Al set a new Rocky Mountain Division record, he finished second by a mere 2043 points behind Jim, who entered the winner's circle from New England. Jim, KO9A, using the WE9V station in WI finished third while also setting a new Central Division record. Scott, W2LC (WNY), Phil, WX9U (IL), Bert, K2BA (OK), Jack, K4CNW (SC), Fritz, K4OAO (TN), Jim, W0UO (NTX) and Mark, WB9CIF (IN), all managed to find their way into the Top Ten box for 2002.

Besides VY2ZM's category record in the Single Operator High power category, we find new records set by John, K9DX (IL), in the Central and Bob, W4MYA (VA) in the Roanoke Divisions. Finishing second in the overall category was Jon, AA1K (DE) who finished ahead of K9DX and W4MYA. Rounding out the Category Top Ten you will find top Canadian in the category John, VE3EF (ON), followed by Barry, N1EU (ENY), Andy, N2NT (NNJ), Bryan, W5MX (KY), Richard, K5NA (STX) and Howie, N4AF (NC).

Eight of the Top Ten multioperator stations were traditional multiop stations, while two used spotting assistance. Con-

gratulations to the operators at KC1XX (NH) who took top category honors with a score of 405,728. The score does establish a new standard for the New England Division. Finishing second were the capable handlers at the W2GD (SNJ). Third place was claimed by the WB9Z (IL) entry while K8XXX (MI) finished in fourth position. Other multioperator stations breaking the Top Ten included NO2R (NNJ), K9IZ (IN), N0NI (IA), W0AIH (WI), KV0Q (CO) and K3WW (EPA). While not making the Top Ten box, a special recognition goes to the VE2OJ entry, which set a new Canadian category record.

Affiliated Club Competition

Just as in Sweepstakes, the battle for the Unlimited Category was another chapter in the continuing feud between the Society of Midwest Contesters and the Potomac Valley Radio Club. SMC was able to hold off the PVRC challenge, due to 13 more logs and with about 5 k more points per log. The Medium Club gavel was claimed by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, which edged out the Frankford Radio Club by about 500 k points. The CT RI Contest Group took top honors in the Local Club category.

Conclusion

Gene, N9TF, speaks for quite a lot of 160-meter search-and-pounce enthusiasts. "If there is one contest I make sure I don't miss each year, it's this one.

"I challenge myself to work all states and mults. However even though I missed WAS again this year (by 6) I did work my second to last state needed (ID) for 160-Meter WAS. Now if I could just find that AK station, I will be done."

Affiliated Club Competition

Unlimited Category	Score	Entries
Society of Midwest Contesters	4,043,590	67
Potomac Valley Radio Club	2,963,348	54
Medium Category		
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	3,100,162	39
Frankford Radio Club	2,585,090	35
Minnesota Wireless Assn	2,180,385	47
Mad River Radio Club	1,603,962	21
Contest Club Ontario	1,123,761	14
Kansas City DX Club	796,290	16
Central Texas DX and Contest	649,590	6
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	627,998	7
North Texas Contest Club	624,186	7
South East Contest Club	570,163	10
Tennessee Contest Group	537,723	16
Grand Mesa Contesters of Kentucky Contest Group	537,176	7
Florida Contest Group	432,421	7
Northern California Contest Club	411,390	13
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	379,352	18
Willamette Valley DX Club	341,183	8
North Coast Contesters	291,230	6
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	288,894	7
Southern California Contest	257,494	3
Texas DX Society	171,304	9
Central Arizona DX Assn	139,803	3
Green River Valley ARS	134,445	4
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	124,684	4
Western Washington DX Club	69,750	3
West Park Radiops	64,562	9
Bergen ARA	40,838	4
	25,286	3
Local Category		
CT RI Contest Group	183,215	6
Medina 2 Meter Group	145,961	3
River City Contesters	130,469	5

The 2003 ARRL 160-Meter contest will be held December 5-7. Anyone want to bet Gene finds the AK to finish off the WAS? A G5RV and tuner may not be the most efficient setup for 160, but it will get you on the air. Can we throw conventional wisdom out the window? Who knows... Can we guarantee some fun to be experienced on Top Band? You bet!



