

2011 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results

“Hey, look, it’s a DX Contest again!” — Ray, WQ5L

Scott Tuthill, K7ZO, k7zo@cableone.net

The 39th annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest was held December 10-11, 2011. After tantalizing us in 2010 with what might be, the band broke wide open for deserving operators worldwide. Conditions were the best since just after the peak of the last solar cycle in 2002. What an on-the-air party!

Activity...WOW, ACTIVITY!

The 2011 contest attracted operators like no other 10 Meter Contest in history. An absolutely unbelievable 5361 logs were entered this year! This count more than doubled last year’s total of 2474 and was 70% higher than the previous record in 2002. The 10 Meter Contest exceeded the ARRL DX Phone all-time mark of 3343 logs by more than 2,000! Continuing the comparison, all the logs submitted for the 2011 ARRL DX Phone contest contained 1.49 million QSOs across all six bands. Submitted 10 Meter Contest logs contained 1.95 million QSOs as a single-band contest. The average log contained 363 QSOs this year compared to 153 in 2010.

Another notable milestone was achieved with the 2011 edition. For the first time ever the 2692 DX logs submitted exceeded the 2,669 from W/VE/XE! DX logs more than tripled from 2010 driven by a genuine explosion from Europe where logs entered jumped from 380 in 2010 to 1763 in 2011. Solid growth continues from Asia as well where logs entered increased from 191 to 550.

For 2011 the big category news was the creation of the Multioperator, Low Power (MOLP) category. Filling the role of both a true Multioperator category as well as a Single-Operator Mixed-Mode Assisted category it proved to be quite popular with 512 logs submitted worldwide. From first impressions it looks like we have a real winner here. When combined with the Multioperator, High Power (MOHP) category it propelled total Multi-operator entries ahead of total Single-Operator, Mixed Mode entries. During



The record breaking D4C team. From left to right: Max, IZ4DPV; Fabio, I4UFH; Donato, IK2EGL, and Giorgio, I2VXJ. [I4UFH photo]

the previous 38 runnings of this contest the Multioperator category was always a distant last place to the other three.

Looking around the world, logs were received from more than 230 different DXCC entities and W/VE/XE sections. This is truly a global contest. More logs were received from those quintessential contesters in Japan with 267, more than any other location. They were closely followed by Germany’s 242 logs and European Russia’s 239 logs. Looking for the

most active W/VE/XE sections, honors go to Virginia with 106 logs received followed by Minnesota with 92.

Of particular interest in Asia were the 50 logs received from China — up from 5 in 2009 and 8 in 2010. Their activity now exceeds that from many stalwart European countries such as Portugal, Hungary, Switzerland, Norway and Finland. With 1.3+ billion citizens, might China someday become the #1 contesting country? Since the ban on Amateur Radio in China was lifted in 1992 the number of licensed operators climbed to 500 in the year 2000, 3500 in the year 2003 and shot up to 20,000 in 2010. Though they still only have as many hams as Ontario or North Carolina, the trend is strong.

Who were the most energetic and active contesters? Which operators sit down, keep their butts in the chair, and make a large number of contacts? Looking at those entities

from which five or more logs were received, the honors go to none other than Cuba. The five logs submitted from Cuba averaged 1272 QSOs each — a great effort from CM8AKD, CO2CW, CO6LC, CO8CY and CO8ZZ. If you wanted to work Cuba and you were within propagation range I bet they were in your log. In second place were the 11 stations from Ireland that averaged 894 QSOs each followed by a tie for third place between 6 stations from Saskatchewan and 11 from

Alberta who averaged 847 QSOs each. If you live in Saskatchewan or Alberta and it is the second weekend in December it is probably not a bad day to spend some time on the radio!

Records, Records and More Records

Not only did operators have fun in 2011 but they set records all over the place. Wow, were there records set! Driven by the triple factors of more sunspots, the new MOLP category and the continuing benefit of 32 new XE multipliers, a total of 432 new all-time

New Continental Records

Continent	Category	Call	New Record
Africa	SO PH LP	EA8MT	610,450
Africa	SO CW LP	EA8CN	618,552
Africa	MO HP	D4C	4,351,000
Asia	SO PH HP	B7P	624,660
Asia	MO LP	4Z5MU	1,092,180
Europe	SO CW HP	EF5Y (EA5GTQ, op)	1,130,112
Europe	MO LP	EA6BF	783,272
Europe	MO HP	EI7M	2,859,864
N America	MO LP	T15N	2,565,348
Oceania	SO PH QRP	VK4ATH	21,080
Oceania	SO CW HP	ZM1A (ZL3CW, op.)	1,428,336
Oceania	MO LP	V63QQ	590,006
S America	SO CW LP	CE2/VE7SV	1,328,000
S America	MO LP	PY1GQ	1,676,196
S America	MO HP	CW5W	3,615,656

Mexican Activity Update

The 2011 10 Meter Contest was the second under the new rules that made the 32 Mexican states multipliers. This 2010 rules innovation met with enthusiastic response from XE operators and over 100 unique XEs were active with 26 states on the air. Fifty logs were submitted up from just six in 2009. Through the tireless efforts and promotion of Hector, XE2K, Joaquin, XE1R, and his XE1RCS bulletin as well as Grupo DXXE, XE participation continued to grow in 2011. More than 110 unique XEs were active in the contest and from 30 of the 32 states. Without a doubt these operators were a major factor in the many new records set in 2011. Comments by several operators setting new records noted the impact of the XE multiplier. They really changed the dynamics of this contest. It's always fun to be "the new kid on the block"!

records were set at the DXCC entity and W/VE/XE section level. Looking at it another way, almost 1 in every 12 logs contained a record score and 1 in every 5 DXCC and W/VE/XE section records was set in 2011! Comparatively only 34 such records were set in 2010. (Thanks to the efforts of Ken, WM5R a full set of contest records is available at www.arrl.org/contests.) Of these 432 records, 226 were DX entity records and 206 were W/VE/XE section records. There were 149 High Power records, 221 Low Power records (117 of these being initial records in the MOLP category) and 63 QRP records set. Mexican operators continue to participate in increasing numbers with 40 new XE records in 2011. There are now records in 68 of the 352 possible entry categories in XE, up from 28 last year.

Within W/VE/XE a total of 50 division records were set. Seventeen of these were the initial records in the new MOLP category and 10 were from Mexico where operators set new records in every category except Single-Op, Mixed Mode, QRP. What a great effort from XE in the second year of the contest with the new rules! (See the sidebar "Mexican Activity Update.") Division records were sprinkled across all the operating categories though no new records were set in the Phone-Only Low or High Power categories outside of Mexico.

Even with this big batch of new records there are still some old ones out there to aim at. Three records still remain from 1988, now the oldest ones on the books in W/VE/XE. Who will take the challenge next year and set new records for Atlantic Division Single-Op, Phone-Only, High Power held by W3LPL (WA8MAZ, op); Hudson Division Single-Op, Phone-Only, Low Power held by N2BJ, and Northwestern Division Single-Op, Mixed-Mode, High Power held by NL7GP?

In addition to the 50 division records there were four new W/VE/XE category records set, the first since 2002. Congratulations to KM3T at KC1XX on setting a new

Single-Op, Mixed-Mode, High Power record, VY2ZM on setting a new Single-Op, CW-Only, High Power record and K1LZ for setting a new Multioperator, High Power record. KD2RD came out on top of all entrants in the new MOLP category and now holds that record.

On the DX front 15 new continent records were set, the first since 2007. Five of these were the initial records in the new MOLP category. There are still a few old continental records out there to aim at if that is your goal. The oldest is a 1975 Antarctica record held by the South Pole club station, KC4AAC (K1KI, op) in the Single-Op, Mixed-Mode, High Power category.

Extraordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things

In most events there are always a small number of participants who stand above others by their will and determination to excel. With the good conditions for the 2011 contest these efforts resulted in new all-time category records. Let's take a look at two of operations that led to new all-time world records and one that led to a W/VE/XE record.

The D4C story — Fabio, I4UFH thought 2011 would be a good opportunity to go after the world Multioperator, High Power record set by VP5K in 2000. As he said "I love the ARRL 10 Meter Contest for more than 20 years and already hold many records. There is no contest as the ARRL 10m Contest!" Fabio invited some friends — Giorgio, I2VXJ; Donato, IK2EGL, and Max, IZ4DPV — to the D4C station at Monte Verde in the Cape Verde Islands.

To say that the D4C station is ideal for a 10 meter contest is a vast understatement. Monte Verde is the highest point on the island of São Vicente. The station rests on the top of this 750 meter mountain with clear shots in all directions. Effectively, their antennas are in "free space" with takeoff angles as low as they

New W/VE/XE Division Records

Division	Category	Call	New Record
Atlantic	MO LP	KO3T	574,864
Atlantic	SO CW HP	KD4D	1,248,000
Atlantic	SO PH QRP	KE2OI	142,296
Central	MO LP	KF9JS	90,948
Central	SO PH QRP	WB9FOL	30,806
Dakota	MO LP	K0RC	353,212
Delta	MO LP	NO4Q	159,120
Delta	SO CW QRP	K4LTA	161,600
Delta	SO MX LP	N8OO	1,719,968
Delta	SO MX QRP	KS4X	119,574
Great Lakes	MO LP	AA8IA	132,300
Hudson	MO LP	KD2RD	1,326,080
Hudson	SO CW LP	W2ID	597,104
Hudson	SO MX HP	N2NT	2,737,742
Midwest	MO LP	W0IW	105,450
Midwest	SO CW QRP	W7FB	175,740
Midwest	SO PH QRP	N0NI	127,676
New England	MO HP	K1LZ	3,635,992
New England	MO LP	W1WBB	585,752
New England	SO MX HP	KM3T (@KC1XX)	3,018,720
Northwestern	MO LP	W7TVC	733,176
Northwestern	SO MX QRP	W7YAQ	310,232
Pacific	MO LP	K6EI	178,064
Pacific	SO CW LP	KH6ZM	749,320
Pacific	SO PH QRP	K6OO	84,390
Roanoke	MO LP	K4FPF	161,024
Roanoke	SO MX LP	N8II	1,368,380
Rocky Mountain	MO LP	K5WO	289,280
Rocky Mountain	SO CW HP	N2IC	1,322,980
Southeastern	MO LP	N4CJ	568,920
Southeastern	SO CW HP	K1TO	1,409,952
Southwestern	MO LP	N6MA	66,368
West Gulf	MO HP	NR5M	3,000,024
West Gulf	MO LP	WD0GT	57,456
Canada	MO HP	VE5MX	1,717,056
Canada	MO LP	VA7BEC	591,840
Canada	SO CW HP	VY2ZM	1,638,972
Canada	SO CW LP	VA2WA (VA2WDQ, op)	772,680
Canada	SO MX HP	VY2TT (K6LA, op)	2,392,420
Canada	SO PH QRP	VX4MM	93,956
Mexico	MO HP	XE2X	392,524
Mexico	MO LP	XE2AU	163,200
Mexico	SO CW HP	XE1MM	525,600
Mexico	SO CW LP	XE1AY	134,048
Mexico	SO CW QRP	XE3WMA	2,944
Mexico	SO MX HP	XE2K	740,520
Mexico	SO MX LP	XE1L	122,944
Mexico	SO PH HP	XE1CWJ	321,216
Mexico	SO PH LP	XE1B	518,256
Mexico	SO PH QRP	XE2JA	95,892

can be. As Fabio remembered: "Our 4 antenna system beamed over 360 degrees worked like a charm, two interlocked radios have done the job! Everything was as expected, great sunshine days, no Murphy visit, a short Friday/Monday trip." When the contest was over they racked up a post log-checking score of 4,351,000, beating the previous VP5K record by a healthy 260,000 points or 6%.

The CE2/VE7SV story — Well-known con-tester and DXpedition participant Dale, VE7SV may or may not have had in mind setting an all-time world record in the Single-Op, CW-Only, Low Power category. As the contest date approached he didn't even have a working antenna. Only through the efforts of delivery boy Scott, KØMD did Dale get the parts needed to fix his 3-element SteppIR Yagi. What Dale *did* have going for him was that his antenna was located 250 feet above the ground on the top of a 20 story apartment building in Renaca, Vina del Mar, Chile. This building was located in turn near the beach and well above it so that his antenna was 600 feet above sea level. As at D4C there

is something magical about 10 meter antennas high above the ground. As Dale described it: “The pile-ups to Europe were crazy...many times I had to QSY and often ran with the attenuator on trying to copy anything from the mess calling...but what a rush!” When the final bell rung Dale had made over 2100 QSOs with low power and a 3-element antenna! His post log-checking score of 1,328,000 beat the previous record held by K1TO by 110,000 points or about 9%.

Affiliated Club Competition		
	Score	Entries
Unlimited Category		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	33,186,960	130
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	28,654,372	78
Florida Contest Group	24,608,646	83
Northern California Contest Club	20,299,126	66
Minnesota Wireless Assn	14,453,608	83
Society of Midwest Contesters	13,038,478	54
Medium Category		
Frankford Radio Club	13,258,284	31
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	13,048,014	44
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	11,199,744	21
Contest Club Ontario	10,612,610	43
Southern California Contest Club	7,472,480	30
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	7,439,444	19
Alabama Contest Group	7,227,460	29
Tennessee Contest Group	6,984,066	41
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	5,550,942	23
Mad River Radio Club	5,350,674	15
Western Washington DX Club	5,096,476	22
Maritime Contest Club	4,800,072	12
South East Contest Club	4,521,596	24
Carolina DX Association	4,457,550	20
Willamette Valley DX Club	4,454,032	20
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	4,242,378	12
ORCA DX and Contest Club	3,380,924	14
Order of Boiled Owls of New York	3,046,704	9
Saskatchewan Contest Club	2,741,248	3
Contest Group Du Quebec	2,627,380	13
CTRI Contest Group	2,566,684	15
North Coast Contesters	2,477,072	5
Northern Rockies DX Association	2,277,084	3
Spokane DX Association	2,220,038	11
Western New York DX Assn	1,850,700	8
Lone Star DX Assn	1,609,164	7
Hampden County Radio Assn	1,546,158	18
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	1,437,270	9
North Texas Contest Club	1,436,724	5
Kentucky Contest Group	1,264,876	4
Louisiana Contest Club	1,142,182	5
Utah DX Assn	1,140,548	7
Allegheny Valley Radio Association	1,048,578	4
Bristol (TN) ARC	451,102	11
West Allis RAC	443,982	11
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	309,088	5
Six Meter Club of Chicago	86,688	6
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	55,724	3
Local Category		
Central Virginia Contest Club	4,359,656	10
Midland ARC	1,255,800	4
Kansas City DX Club	1,176,590	9
Hilltop Transmitting Assn	1,145,576	5
599 DX Association	1,141,616	6
Delara Contest Team	939,460	7
Lincoln ARC	764,918	5
Bergen ARA	753,702	8
Northeast Wisconsin DX Assn	684,290	3
Iowa DX and Contest Club	575,440	3
New Mexico Big River Contesters	455,756	3
Metro DX Club	394,192	3
Meriden ARC	358,964	4
Sterling Park ARC	333,944	9
West Park Radiops	282,488	7
Badger Contesters	268,626	7
Gloucester Co ARC	216,488	5
Granite State ARA	205,664	6
Low Country Contest Club	172,588	4
Murgas ARC	152,960	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	104,884	7
Heartland DX Association	92,520	6
Southern Berkshire ARC	62,770	5
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	44,878	5
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club	34,904	4
Hays-Caldwell ARC	6,504	3

The KM3T story — Dave, KM3T had an opportunity to operate from KC1XX for the contest and knew he was going to go full-bore in the Single-Op, Mixed-Mode, High Power category. KC1XX may not be on a mountain like D4C nor on top of apartment near a beach like CE2/VE7SV but whatever disadvantage that may be is made up by throwing aluminum at the problem. Dave had at his selection seven different 7-element beams including a rotating 4-stack as well as a few other antennas here and there. As Dave related: “It was great to hear the massive amount of activity this weekend from Europe, USA, and South America. Europe starting coming in via a southerly scatter path Saturday morning between about 1120Z and 1140Z, then the path went direct. The EU opening seemed better and deeper on Sunday with many more Russian stations and some goodies like 4K4K and 9K, 4X4, etc.” When the contest was over Dave suspected if his log survived log checking it would be a new record. Well it did survive and it was a new record. His post log checking score of 3,018,720 beat the prior record held by KQ2M by 271,000 points or almost 10%.

Hams Just Want to Have Fun

There are also participants who just do it for the fun. That is one of the great things about contesting — you can choose your own level of participation and commitment. Several great examples of the spirit and fun of contesting from the 2011 contest were:

Operating as the GM3W team, Ian, GM3SEK and his wife Nadine, MM0MNW invented a “Mr & Mrs” section to the Multioperator, High Power category. Ian did the CW operating and Nadine did the Phone operating. They ended up with 1205 QSOs and 196 multipliers and had enough fun that they are planning on the same format in 2012.

For Larry, KD6SXF the 2011 ARRL 10 Meter Contest was his first contest ever! As he described it: “I only operated about 4.75 hours, but I was exhausted! I wonder

how so many hams are able to stay on the air hour after hour.”

Finally there was the fantastic statement from Mike, AB1OD who was operating in the contest near the first anniversary of getting his ticket: “If you had told me this time last year that I’d be having this much fun sitting at a computer and a radio, I would have questioned your sanity. My, how things change.” A graduate of the ARRL Rookie Roundup, since the 2011 ARRL 10 Meter Contest through mid-April 2012 he has participated in no fewer than 21 other contests by a count of his 3830 score postings.

Club Competition

Club competition continues to be a popular and fun aspect of this contest. Seventy clubs submitted 1217 logs meaning almost half of W/VE operators were also part of a club entry!

In the Local Club category the Central Virginia Contest Club took top honors among the 26 clubs. Their 10 members combined for more than 4 million points and ended the streak of the Midland Amateur Radio Club of Midland, Texas who won the category in three of the last four years.

In the popular Medium Club category the 31 members of the Frankford Radio Club bested the 44 members of the Arizona Outlaws Contest club by less than 2%! This was a great rebound from the Frankford club as they placed 8th last year and another heartbreaker for the Arizona club who also finished second in 2010.

In the Unlimited Club category the 130 members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club who bested second-place Yankee Clipper Contest Club by a wide margin. The PVRC’s success formula looks like just overwhelming their competition with the sheer number of members. Congratulations to all the clubs and their organizers.

Summary

The 2012 ARRL 10 Meter Contest will be held on December 8 and 9. We’ll see you on the band in December!

Extended Version Online

Look to the online extended version of this article at www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles for lots more commentary, many more action photos, and the following features and analysis:

- A short history of the contest
- What did *CW Skimmer* spots tell us about propagation?
- How well did this author’s pre-contest predictions hold up?
- Is there a magic mix of Phone and CW for multimode categories?
- A photo study of Kevin, K7ZS’s remote operation.
- A contest summary from Mexico by Hector, XE2K
- Line scores and the all-time record tables.

If you own a smartphone, just scan this QR code.

