

Results, Seventh Annual ARRL 160-Meter Contest

December 4-5 event tops off the 1976 contest calendar.

By Bill Jennings,* WA1AHJ

Just like that helium-filled balloon that "escaped" your sweaty little palm at the circus or parade, the 160-meter scores continue to rise, higher and higher, the trailing string just out of grasp. Scores that would have made the top-ten listing only last year, good solid scores, obtained by hours of squeezing very weak signals out of the normally high QRM and QRN levels, miss the elusive 10 highest score listings by several thousand points. Why? Perhaps better propagation conditions. Maybe the easy access to the electronic operator aids; electronic memory keyers and microprocessor "log-keeping machines" that take the burden of a lot of the grunty work away and allow the operator more time to operate rather than perform menial chores, peripheral to the actual working of QSOs and multipliers. The proliferation of multimode, multi-band super whoopie, deluxe transceivers that now include 160-meter coverage as a standard feature might also be the answer to the question of why more QSOs and multipliers show up each year to be worked. And the scores continue upward.

The seventh annual running of the 160-Meter Contest drew almost a 20-percent higher turnout in terms of entries received, a total of 364 entries, compared to 306 in the 1975 event.

Even though it took a score 26 percent higher this year just to place in the top ten in the single-operator category than it did last year, six of the top-ten single operators were also in there in 1975. K1PBW repeats this year

as the top single operator, even breaking his old all-time single-operator record by over 11,000 points at 111,972. Jim is still the only operator to break the 100,000 point barrier. Other "repeaters" to the top-ten single-operator category are W2DXL, W3IN, K4PUZ, W8LRL and WA9BWY.

On the multioperator side of the ledger, an 11-percent jump in the minimum score needed to make the top-ten listing, and even more of a status quo as far as the stations that did make it. Seven of the top-ten multioperator stations of 1975 also show up on the 1976 list, among them the multioperator stations of WA2SPL and WA8IJI, who retained their positions of numbers one and two respectively, each in-

creasing their total score by about 7,000 points. W4PRO, W4OZF, K8HLR, W8LT and W0AW are the rest of the stations that retained their top-ten positions.

For those of us interested in the number of DX stations worked by each entrant, W3IN has come up with a nifty plug-em-in formula to calculate the number of DX stations, strictly from the information given in the line score for each entrant. The formula is as follows:

$$N = \frac{\frac{A}{B} - 2C}{3}$$

where N = number of DX QSOs, A = total score, B = number of multipliers and C = total number of QSOs.

Contrary to popular belief, KV4 is included in the West Indies Section, *not* to be claimed as a separate country multiplier, or as a five-point DX QSO. The rules are quite explicit in stating that QSOs with ARRL sections count two points *not* five points, and KH6 and KL7 as well as KP4 stations all are within ARRL sections. More than a few entrants will find their scores adjusted to reflect the above conditions and to conform to the published rules.

Soapbox

Line noise? Good thing that I didn't have a chain saw. (VE5DX) The 26-year-old vertical with its duplex-control circuits (15 thru 160 meters) still working FB. The only conductors are those of one lone coax, underground. (W0GK) Just testing my new home-brew transverter, using my 80-meter dipole as a



It takes teamwork to build a competitive station. At left is Ken, W9JZE, antenna designer. On the right is Ron, the antenna erector. Seated center is Rod, WA9OGD, who operated the station to 383 QSOs and 54k points in the Illinois Section.

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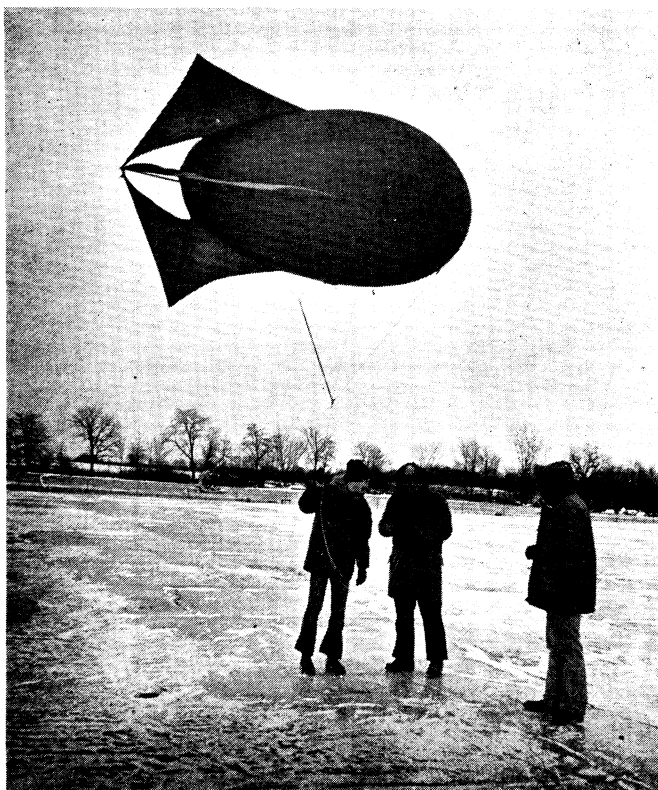
The rebirth and death of the Kytoon. Vic, WA1LKU, Bob, W8ERD, Gary, WB8IBZ, and Cathy, WB8TXE, all part of the mob at W8LT, are shown above resurrecting their beloved antenna support balloon, the Kytoon. The Kytoon seemingly met its fate during the 1975 160-Meter Contest (see story in June 1976 QST) and the continuing saga of the Kytoon is related to us by Jeff, WB8JXS, another of the Ohio State University Amateur Radio Club members.

"Everything went smoothly as far as the Kytoon was concerned. We lowered it and gave it a booster of gas on Saturday morning, and it kept away from the trees and metal structures. Saturday night was very cold, and on Sunday morning the Kytoon was dragging a bit. It was taken down and given a booster. It flew straight again, and we

continued operating. The sun came up. It was getting warmer, and we were glad that we didn't have to gather up all of the antennas in the cold. The gas in the Kytoon expanded ($PV=nRT$). When the contest had ended and the last push on the Accu-Memory had faded away, we glanced up at the "... old dependable Kytoon.

"There was something strange about it. It seemed to have added a new, lighter color to itself. It was too far away to see exactly what was going on, so we took it down.

"It looked like it was giving birth to the largest spawn of guppies recorded in modern times. The outer skin had burst lengthwise, from the nose to the tail, allowing the gas bladder to grow out of it. This is probably the last time that this Kytoon will fly."



Marconi, and surprised at how well it worked! (W2LYH) Conditions on Friday night were very good. On Saturday, a front moved through with static becoming very heavy and signals down in level. I heard all sections but VE7, VE8, KL7 and Montana. It's most frustrating to hear a needed section who slips away never to be heard again, or even worse to hear one call CQ test and you crank away at him with never a reply! (W4QM) The highlight of the contest, for me, was a contact with W6OKK. Pat and I were classmates back in 1942 at Navy Radio Material School, Treasure Island, California. Of the 40 or so hams who were in class 3B this is the first "on-the-air" contact that I've had with any of them. (W6MUV) Boy! What fun this contest is going to be when LORAN is finally removed! (WA6MBP) I noticed that 25 percent of all stations worked were two-letter calls. (K5LZJ) It was a great satisfaction to beat Murphy by having two, 20-year-old SX-99 receivers. The first one blew up half-way through the contest. (W7JAL) I changed my 80-meter dipole to a 160-meter dipole on the second day of the contest with greatly improved results. Seemed to work fine even with the end going in all directions to keep it inside my lot. (WØBIY) Last year my score was so

DX was very difficult to work. DX stations who tried to work in among the Ws were really clobbered and not many other than the Europeans tried to use the DX window. The window was fairly well respected in principle by the contestants, but they encroached a kHz on each end, which narrowed it down effectively to three kHz. (W9GT) A pox on those that contact a KL7 and then call CQ on that frequency! (W9EI) 160 is the last band populated only by gentlemen and ladies. Nice to work a band where courtesy is taken for granted. (VP1MPW) Condx very good. I had to go to work on Sunday night, so not much of a score. An always pleasant contest. (JA2UEO) Another great test. Now up to 47 states worked on 160.



Jim, WA1WVK, piloted station W1YNC to 26,061 points and third place in the Connecticut Section.

Division Leaders

SINGLE OP	DIVISION	MULTIOP
AC3IN	Atlantic	K3BSY
W9MTT	Central	W9YH
WØHW	Dakota	WØAW
K4PUZ	Delta	
K4GSU	Great Lakes	WA8JI
W2DXL	Hudson	WA2SPL
WØNFL	Midwest	WØIS
K1PBW	New England	W1MX
W7SUY	Northwestern	K7GGD
W6KQG	Pacific	
W8LRL	Roanoke	W4PRO
WØLLR	Rocky Mtn.	WØPXO
K4SB	Southeastern	W4OZF
K6SE	Southwestern	W6HJW
W5SBX	West Gulf	K5QNM
VE3IXE	Canadian	VE1AXT

poor — less than 4000 points — that I didn't bother to send it in. But if I had, I would have won for San Diego Section!! I know of scores higher than mine this year, but here is my log anyway. I've learned my lesson! (W6ABT) The band was unusual this year (that is for 4-land), in that there was a complete absence of atmospheric QRN during the entire contest period. Although I prefer to operate (with my power level) above 1830, LORAN became so intense at times that I was compelled to go below the DX window. Because of the conditions, the low end of the band sounded like 40 meters during the Sweepstakes. (W4FCJ) The activity was so great that

period on Dec. 5, I counted 12 U.S. stations operating in the DX window. At the very least you should publish their calls; at the very best, make operation in the window a disqualification criteria. (K4SB) After five hours of 2.1-kHz selectivity, my order for rig's cw filter is in the mail. (WA4ECB) Heard a couple of fellows on 80 talking about the contest, so I decided to get on. Built transmitter, a 210 Colpitts oscillator and modified the 75A1 receiver. Lots of fun with 10 watts input. (W4NUM) With a top-loaded vertical, tangled in a 40-meter beam, Globe Chief and VF 1 VFO, I think next year that I will upgrade to a spark gap and a clothesline! (WB5HOD) Recommend that DX-to-DX contacts be allowed in the future to promote more DX activity. (K6SE) Chased all over on Saturday night looking for Maine and Delaware. Almost fell out of my chair when K1RQE (Maine) and W3GL (Delaware) both came back to one of my CQs at the same time. (WB6NRK/7) Too many alligators for us elephants! (K7RA) Seems like the big signals get bigger every year. (WA8SJX) Every QSO is simply more fun on 160. (W8IBX)

Top Ten

SINGLE OP	MULTIOP
K1PBW 111,972	WA2SPL 97,193
K4GSU 99,636	WA8JI 90,244
K4PUZ 95,978	WØAW 86,250
W2DXL 94,836	K8HLR 85,320
W8LRL 93,808	W9YH 84,916
W9MTT 91,476	W8LT 79,125
AC3IN 89,908	W4OZF 75,522
WA9BWY 85,396	W4PRO 73,416
W9DL 82,288	WA8SJX 56,445
WA5RTG 81,928	K8SJU 54,746

Just KL7, KH6 and Idaho to go. Spent 90 percent of my time above 1830 kHz, as there was no room below. (VE3ECP) Haven't heard the old band so busy since before World War II. (VE7AGN) Heard all U.S. call areas, but could only work 6 and 7. Other areas seemed to work only the loud top layer. (VE7XN) Enjoyed meeting old friends and such good operators. A pleasure not to have the usual contest QRM. (W2DW) Understand that 92 multipliers were on the air. Missed simple ones like ND, SD and some close-in DX. Just can't seem to break that magic 100k score. (WA2SPL) Used Yaesu FT 101B, 95 watts and a low mongrel dipole. (W2GP) ZL3ZQ blew my mind for some reason. Too bad DX activity was low, I might have recovered more rapidly. (W2MTA) Amazing amount of daylight activity this time. (AC3IN) Antenna is a 66-foot, 7-MHz aluminum dipole roped to a tree. W3IWT shivered out words of encouragement as we laid radials in the snow. (K3BSY) In one 20-minute

Check Logs

W1HDC W1HGT W2LYH
WA9QHO/2 K4JM AA4WCG W5IOU
W7IMP W7MKB K9AKC WØAIH
WØLNZ VE3AWE.

Scores

Scores are listed by country within each continent, by province within Canada, and by section within each U.S. call area. The highest single-operator station in each ARRL section and in each country receives a certificate. The highest multiple-operator station in each section and country receives a certificate if there are three or more such entrants or, if, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, the entrant displays exceptional effort. Read the score listings as follows: call, score, QSOs, multiplier, hours of operation. Asterisks denote Hq. staff members, who are not eligible for awards when operating their own station or that of another staff member.

