

Results, 1989 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

By Billy Lunt, KR1R
Contest Manager

and Warren C. Stankiewicz, NF1J
Assistant Contest Manager

The low bands suffer from lack of propagation at the top of the sunspot cycle—and that's exactly what happened in the 1989 ARRL 160-Meter Contest. Mitch, WB2JSJ, relates, "High absorption on Friday night and high static Saturday night made it a meager existence at best. DX definitely appeared to be a rare and endangered species this year. I can honestly say that I could not fully enjoy this contest." Even though conditions weren't the best, W4SNH "enjoyed the contest very much." Fred, KS7T, found that "it was slow going in this contest with the higher number of sun spots." VE5XU didn't find things much better in Canada. Harold conveyed, "Conditions were extremely poor. It was a bit of a struggle; fun nevertheless!"

On the other hand, what may seem to be one person's catastrophe is another person's conquest. Alfred, N4UZ, wrote, "Band conditions were good. I made 5000 points more than last year." Dub, W4DMB, disclosed that he did better than he expected, even with less than optimum conditions. Tom, WB8EJN, had a blast in the contest and managed to triple his score from the previous year!

Besides propagation and QRN, several other factors affected the outcome of the contest. Joe, N9JR, explained, "My rig and antenna were working fine Friday night so Murphy had to find another victim. Friday's sneezes turned into Saturday's cold and I ended up spending Saturday night in bed instead of at the rig. Oh well, there is always next year." Being that this contest is in the middle of the flu season, there were probably a few others that didn't feel well enough to give it their all.

For many, the 160-Meter Contest is more than a contest. It is a chance to say hello to old friends and sometimes even a pleasant get-together as in the case of VE2OJ and crew. John, VE3NJ, explains, "For some years now, we have contested from a winterized cottage on Johnson Lake, about 50 miles northwest of Ottawa. These 'radio safari' weekends, especially for 160 meters, have been particularly enjoyable, facilitated by very low levels of man-made noise, great food, cold water and good comradeship. This year was no exception. With a foot of snow on the ground and -18°C temperatures, we were content to stay inside and work HF, and

Division Leaders

Single Operator

Call	Score
AA1K	155,928
WA4VWV	116,625
W0HW	79,350
NY4N	43,776
K4FU	88,734
K5NA	123,084
W0EJ	95,625
K5MA/1	82,490
N6TR/7	25,380
WA6AUE	45,724
AD0O	83,068
AA4S	112,788
W4HBK	52,932
K6LL	54,270
N5RZ	72,522
VE3KP	54,730
YV1OB	7,912

Division
Atlantic
Central
Dakota
Delta
Great Lakes
Hudson
Midwestern
New England
Northwestern
Pacific
Rocky Mountain
Roanoke
Southeastern
Southwestern
West Gulf
Canada
DX

Multioperator

Call	Score
K2WI	147,784
W9AZ	124,000
K0DD	99,900
K1LT	158,688
W2GD	45,900
N0SM	82,460
NX1G	85,575
N7AGP	15,360
N6RZ	63,288
NA7R	59,340
W4JVN	23,688
AB4RU	109,902
AA6DT	28,329
WA5MWD	86,925
VE2OJ	14,196
JA7YAA	1,216



WB5AZI (l) and WA5MWD launch multioperator-station WA5MWD's balloon-supported 1/4-wave vertical antenna.

eat and tell stories by the wood stove after our antenna work was done. This year we particularly missed Arn, VE2SD, well known for his 'rusty water.' He became a silent key on July 1, '89."

Outdistancing all other single-ops, "the Delaware wonder," AA1K, scored 155k points, to win first-place single operator. Richard, K5NA, scored 123k points, finishing in second place, and Steve, WA4VWV, was third with 116k points. K1LT, from Ohio, was the top scorer among multiops,

QSO Leaders

Single Operator

AA1K	822
WA4VWV	773
K5NA	768
AA4S	702
K4FU	637
W0EJ	633
WA2SRQ	590
W3TS	583
K9CAN	558
K5MA/1	550

Multioperator

K1LT	891
W9AZ	760
K2WI	755
NZ8O	737
AB4RU	679
W0AIH/9	675
K0DD	663
N0SM	589
WA5MWD	575
NX1G	548

Multiplier Leaders

Single Operator

AA1K	89
N5RZ	79
K5NA	78
AA4S	78
AD0O	76
WA4VWV	75
W0EJ	75
W0HW	75
WA2SRQ	74
K5MA/1	73

Multioperator

K2WI	91
K1LT	87
W2TA	80
W9AZ	80
AB4RU	78
NZ8O	77
NX1G	75
WA5MWD	75
K0DD	75
N4XM	74

with 158k points. Multiop K2WI finished second with 147k points and W9AZ third with 124k.

Although conditions were not the best, AA1K completed 822 QSOs, as single-op QSO leader. Not far behind Jon was WA4VWV with 774 QSOs. Richard, K5NA, was third with 768 contacts. K1LT and friend led the way among the multiop stations by compiling 891 QSOs. W9AZ placed second, completing 760 QSOs, and K2WI was third with 755.

Top Ten

Single Operator		Multioperator	
Call	Score	Call	Score
AA1K	155,928	K1LT	158,688
K5NA	123,084	K2WI	147,784
WA4VWV	116,625	W9AZ	124,000
AA4S	112,788	NZ8O	116,039
W0EJ	95,625	AB4RU	109,902
WA2SRQ	89,984	W0AIH/9	100,122
K4FU	88,734	K0DD	99,900
AD0O	83,068	WA5MWD	86,925
K5MA/1	82,490	NX1G	85,575
K9CAN	80,784	W2TA	94,400

Not only did AA1K lead the way with QSOs, he also managed to work the most multipliers among single-operator entries. Jon worked 89 mults to earn the "multiplier leader" title. N5RZ managed 79 multipliers for second place. K5NA and AA4S were right on his heels with 78 mults each. Collecting 91 multipliers and being bestowed as the multiop multiplier leader is the gang at K2WI. K1LT and crew were just four mults off the top mark with 87 mults. Both W2TA and W9AZ managed 81 mults each for a third place tie.

Only 10 DX stations sent their logs to HQ for this year's contest. EA8BTO was the top-scoring single-op DX entry. Wolfgang worked 40 stations in 24 sections for the victory. JE1SPY finished in second place making 21 contacts in 14 sections. JA9BOH was third with 19 QSOs and 11 mults. Ted, JJ3CNL, operated JA7YAA again this year, using a spotting net to win first-place DX multiop. He completed 38 QSOs in 16 sections. The gang at JH0ZHQ finished in second place with 30 QSOs and 13 mults. JA3YKC and crew were third with 22 contacts in 12 sections.

Because of the physical size of antennas for 160 meters, it's not the easiest band to "get on." But with a little ingenuity, you can master it and, perhaps, even become quite proficient on the "gentleman's



WB5BPG has both hands full at multioperator-station WA5MWD during their 8th-place-world finish.

band." We are looking forward to seeing everyone back again for the next running of the ARRL 160-Meter Contest. Special thanks to Contest Assistant Mark R. Burke for his help in preparing the results.

Soapbox

We finally have permission to work 160 meters. It was thrilling to work three stations (CN8FC). After two very hard nights with heavy QRM and bad conditions, I could only work 40 stations. One day after the contest, the conditions were excellent! (EA8BTO). I made a one-wavelength Beverage antenna for the contest with hopes of more East Coast QSOs (JA9BOH). It is very hard to hear the USA from Osaka in Western Japan (JA3YKC). What lousy conditions! (K1JKS). Great contest despite poor propagation. There were no West Coast stations heard at all in remote Maine (W1HRQ). QRN was high on Saturday. With only 5 watts output, nearly every exchange required repeats. Thanks to those who hung in there! (KN1H). I missed a lot of the West Coast! Where were the 5s, 6s and 7s this year? (WA1HYN). The 160-Meter Contest always seems to mellow me out for the holidays (WA2YEI). This was my first time in the contest (WB2VVV). I made very poor plans, only allowed two hours for the contest! QRP worked great with no reports received less than 599! (K2HPV). Sure do miss the CD Parties and saying "hi" to the whole

gang. The 160-Meter Contest is the next best thing (K2KIR). My apologies to those stations who suffered QRM from "that rotten tuner-upper." The clubhouse's home-brew keyer has been kicked around once to often and decided to go into key-down at random! (N3EQF). I plan to be back next year with better antennas and equipment. Hope conditions will be better for DX (AB4RU). I don't know why I can work the weaker stations and the loud ones are a problem! (WD4AHZ). When my amplifier opted to be out of the contest and coerced my exciter to go along, I hooked the antenna to my mobile rig and finished the contest barefoot from the car (KX4V). This was my first 160-Meter Contest. I really had a nice time. There was not a lot of operating space due to the size of the band, but it helped to improve operating skills. I can't wait till next year (NY4N). Conditions seemed worse than during last year's contest (K6ETM). No DX worked! I only heard EA8BTO early in the contest (W4JVN). I heard V3, HR and JA, but the first two weren't sitting still and the latter was marginal (K5GN). This was my first 160-Meter Contest; in fact, these were my first 160-meter contacts. I had a great time. There seemed to be a lot of activity and everyone was a "new one" for me (AA6EW). This was my first effort in any contest since being licensed in 1970. I had lots of fun! (WB6IMC). I heard lots of Midwest and East Coast stations but they could not hear me. The top band is tough when you live on a thirty-foot boat. There isn't much room for an antenna farm. It was fun and I will be back next year (W6BKY). We worked all we could. Would like to try this contest from the East Coast some year! It is always a fun contest (N6RZ). Thanks for an enjoyable, gentlemanly contest (N6SS). Quite a switch for me to run QRP. Hats off to all those great Beverages out there to pull me through the QRM (K8AQM). My signal was so weak that my station actually sucked power out of the ether rather than radiating a signal! How could anyone hear me? (W00G/9). The annual disregard for 1.830 to 1.850 was in evidence. It's nice to be long on QSOs but it would have been nicer to have grabbed the DX multipliers, given a chance (WA4VWV). I didn't spend much time in the contest this year. There are too many tests in a row and I had to work in one family weekend (W9HE). Want to learn patience? Try running a Drake T4/R4 barefoot through a Transmatch using the rain gutter on a ranch-style house as an antenna! I still had a fun time (WD9IAB). Boy! It sure is easier to get multipliers from Missouri than it was from the East Coast! Can you believe that I never even heard Connecticut? (W3HDH/0).

See next page for 160-M scores
